

STARBLAZER

A dynamic illustration of a space battle. In the foreground, a blue and white spaceship with a large red cockpit and multiple cannons is shown from a low angle. In the background, a large, ornate sailing ship with white sails and a red dragon on its flag is flying through space. Other smaller spacecraft are visible in the distance. The background is a deep blue space with stars and a large, orange, cratered planet in the upper right corner.

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 100

18p

PIRATES
of the
ETHER SEA

STARBLAZER



As Terran adventurers explored deeper into the galaxy, traders followed them to do business with the new worlds. There were credits to be amassed by this new breed of inter-stellar wanderer: but with wealth came crime, and space piracy flourished. A new Fighting Force, the Galactic Law Enforcement Squad, was founded to protect the freighters: but even they could not guarantee protection against one of the desperate killers among **THE PIRATES OF THE ETHER SEA.**

PIRATES OF THE ETHER SEA

AN EARTH FREIGHTER CONVOY, WITH ESCORT,
EMERGED FROM HYPER SPACE TO EXECUTE A
GRAVITY ASSISTED TURN USING THE STAR, RIGOR.

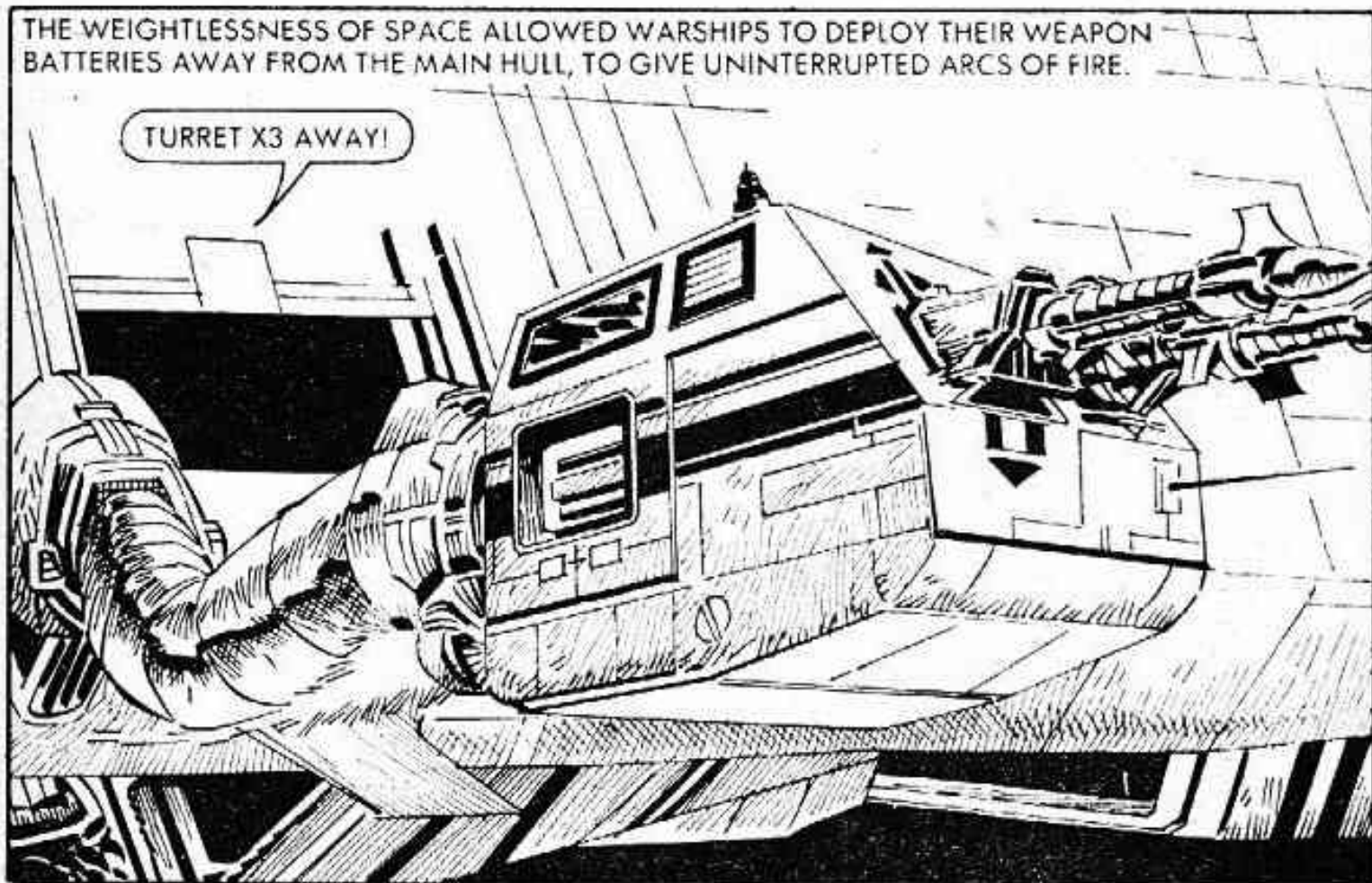


WE'RE NOW ENTERING
THE DANGER ZONE!





THE WEIGHTLESSNESS OF SPACE ALLOWED WARSHIPS TO DEPLOY THEIR WEAPON BATTERIES AWAY FROM THE MAIN HULL, TO GIVE UNINTERRUPTED ARCS OF FIRE.



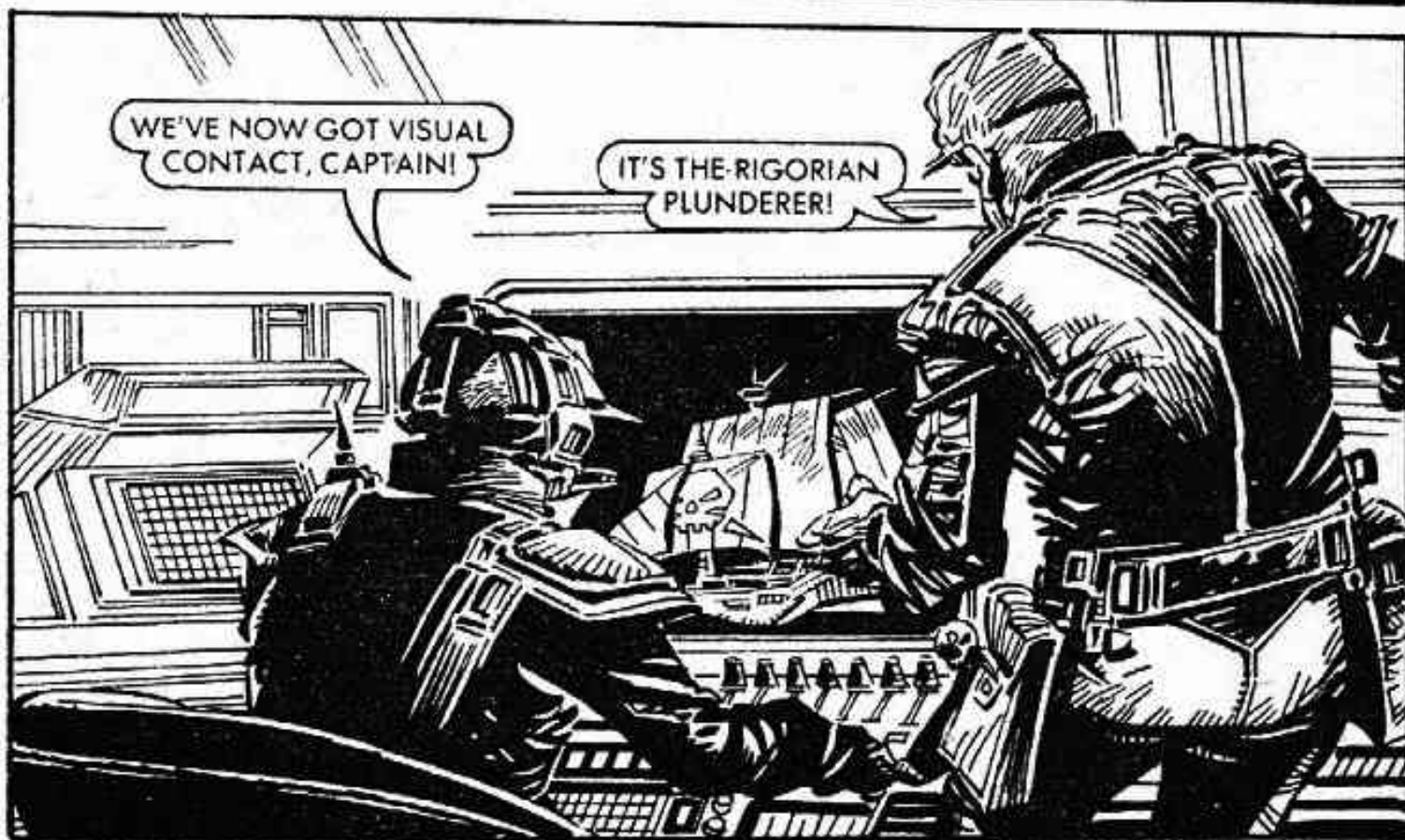
ONCE THE PRIMARY ARMAMENT WAS DEPLOYED, A FORCE FIELD SCREEN WAS GENERATED TO SHIELD THE SHIP.

ATTENTION, GUNNERS,
TRACKING DATA ON THE
INTRUDER IS NOW BEING FED
TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL
TARGETTING COMPUTERS.



WE'VE NOW GOT VISUAL
CONTACT, CAPTAIN!

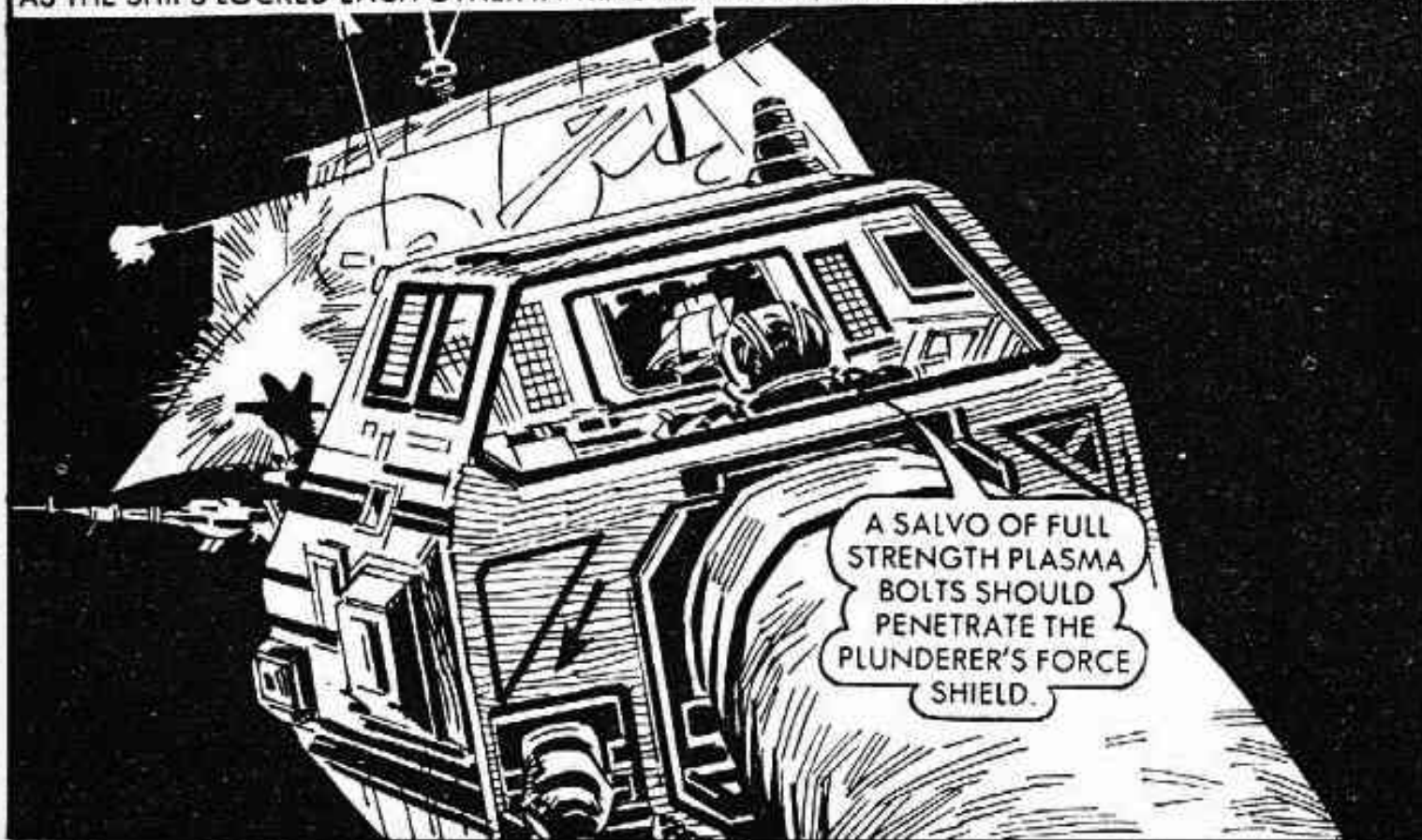
IT'S THE RIGORIAN
PLUNDERER!



THE RIGORIAN PLUNDERER WAS THE MOST FEARED OF ALL THE PIRATE SHIPS.

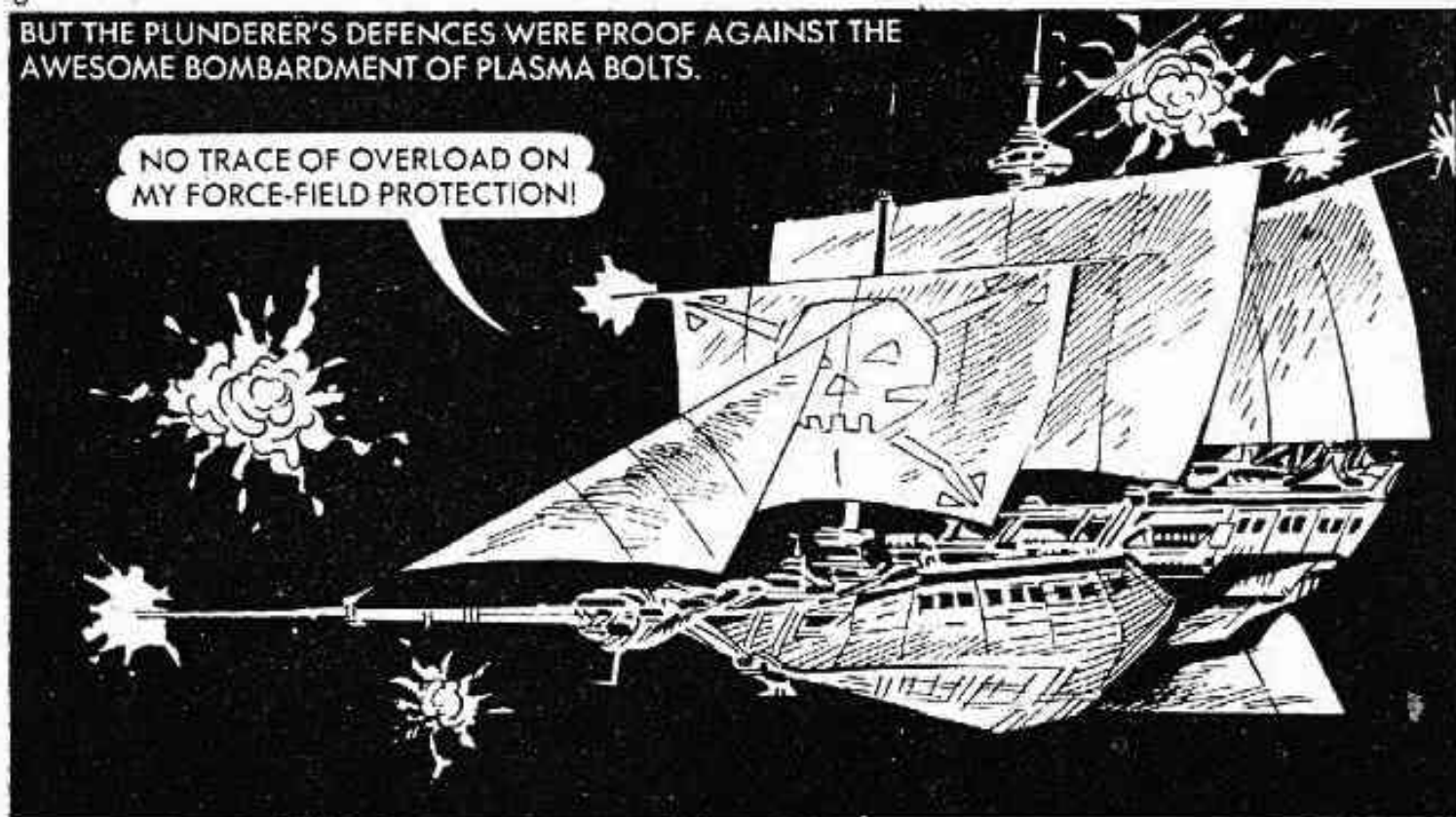


AS THE SHIPS LOCKED EACH OTHER IN TRACTOR BEAMS, GUNNER DARIEN SHEEN OPENED FIRE.



BUT THE PLUNDERER'S DEFENCES WERE PROOF AGAINST THE AWESOME BOMBARDMENT OF PLASMA BOLTS.

NO TRACE OF OVERLOAD ON MY FORCE-FIELD PROTECTION!



A SECTION OF THE PLUNDERER'S FORCE SHIELD FADED TO ALLOW THE PROCYON BEAM TO FIRE.



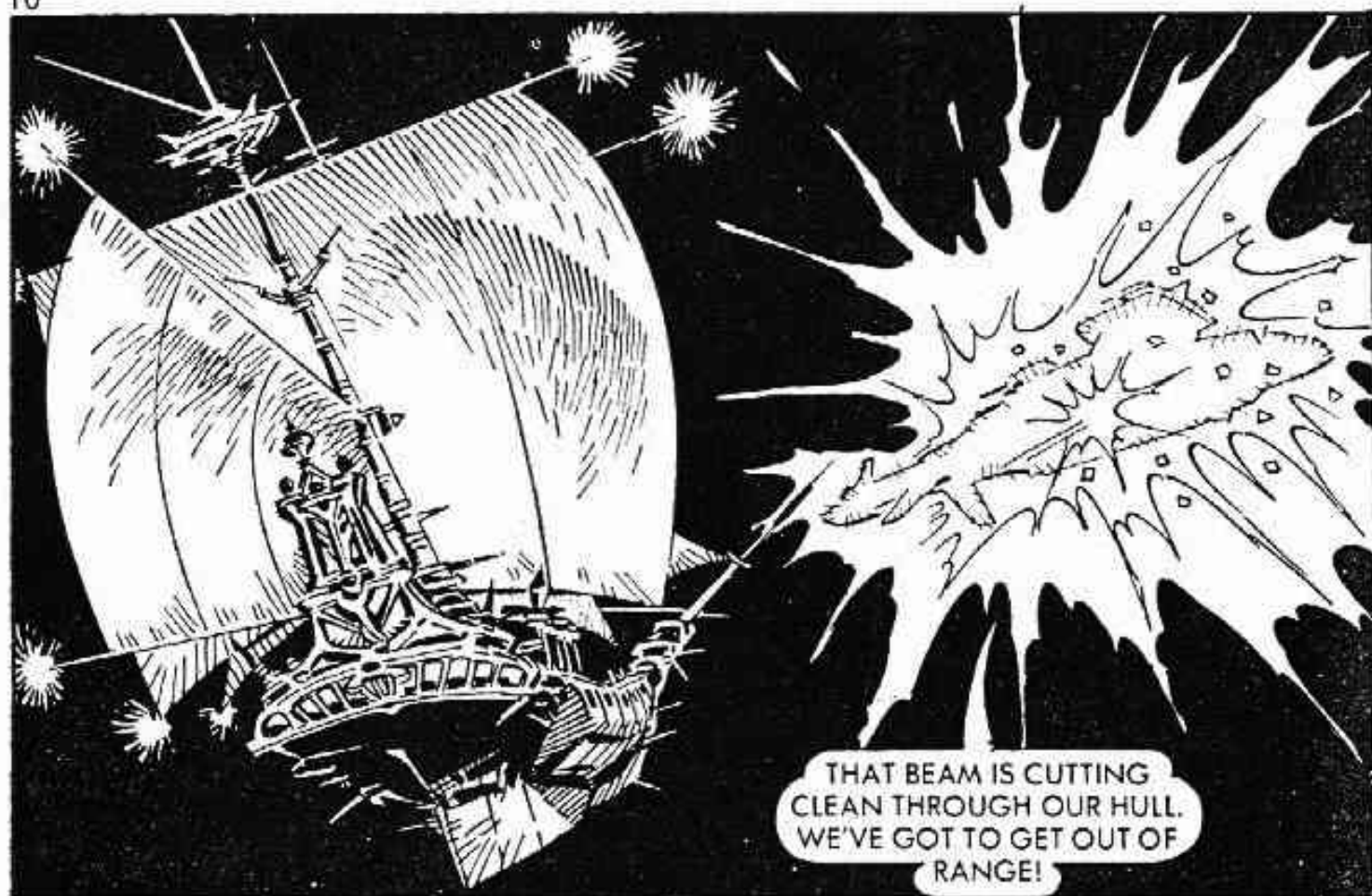
YOU HAVE HAD YOUR TURN, TERRAN! NOW SEE HOW YOU FARE AGAINST MY PROCYON BEAM!

THAT FLASH OF LIGHT LOOKS LIKE
THE PLUNDERER'S RETURN OF FIRE.
NOW WE'LL SEE WHAT WE'RE UP
AGAINST.

JUPE! THE PLUNDERER
PACKS A MEGA PUNCH!

A PROCYON BEAM! IT'S CAUSED
OUR FORCE FIELD TO COLLAPSE:
WE'RE DEFENCELESS!

A PROCYON BEAM PRODUCED A COMPLICATED
REACTION WITH MANY TYPES OF ENERGY WHICH
CAUSED THEM TO DESTROY THEIR SOURCE —



BUT THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW CAME TOO LATE TO SAVE THE SHIP.



IF THE EARLIER BURST HADN'T
RIPPED ME CLEAR I'D HAVE BEEN
ENGULFED IN THAT EXPLOSION!

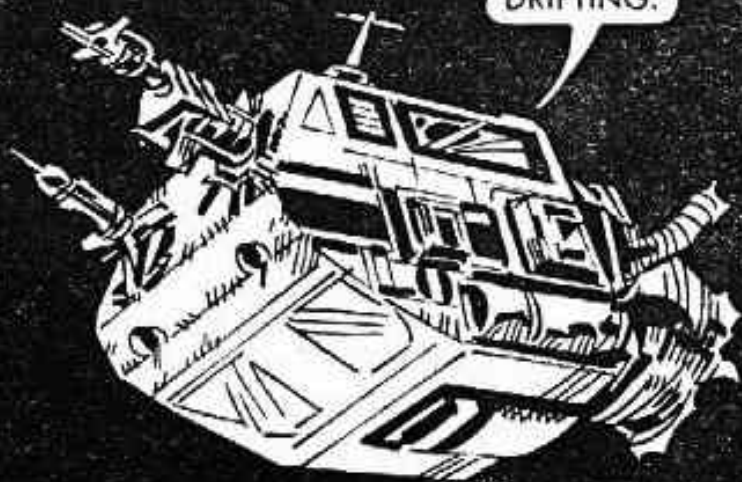


AFTER THAT LITTLE DIVERSION I
CAN NOW CONCENTRATE ON THE CONVOY.



MEANWHILE THE INITIAL IMPETUS CARRIED DARIEN AWAY FROM THE CONVOY INTO THE BLACK VOID OF SPACE.

THE TARGET SCAN HAS PICKED UP AN ASTEROID ONLY 10 DEGREES OFF MY LINE OF MOTION. IT OFFERS A BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVAL THAN JUST DRIFTING.



THE TARGETTING JETS ARE TOO WEAK TO USE TO CHANGE COURSE, BUT THEY MIGHT ALLOW ME TO LINE UP THE PLASMA CANNON AS A MAKESHIFT JET.



NORMALLY THE RECOIL WAS ABSORBED BY THE FORCE SHIELD OF THE TURRET'S PARENT SHIP, BUT IN THE VACUUM OF SPACE THE RECOIL ACTED AS A SOURCE OF EQUAL AND OPPOSITE REACTION.

NEWTON'S LAWS OF MOTION HAVE GOT ME ON COURSE FOR THE ASTEROID!

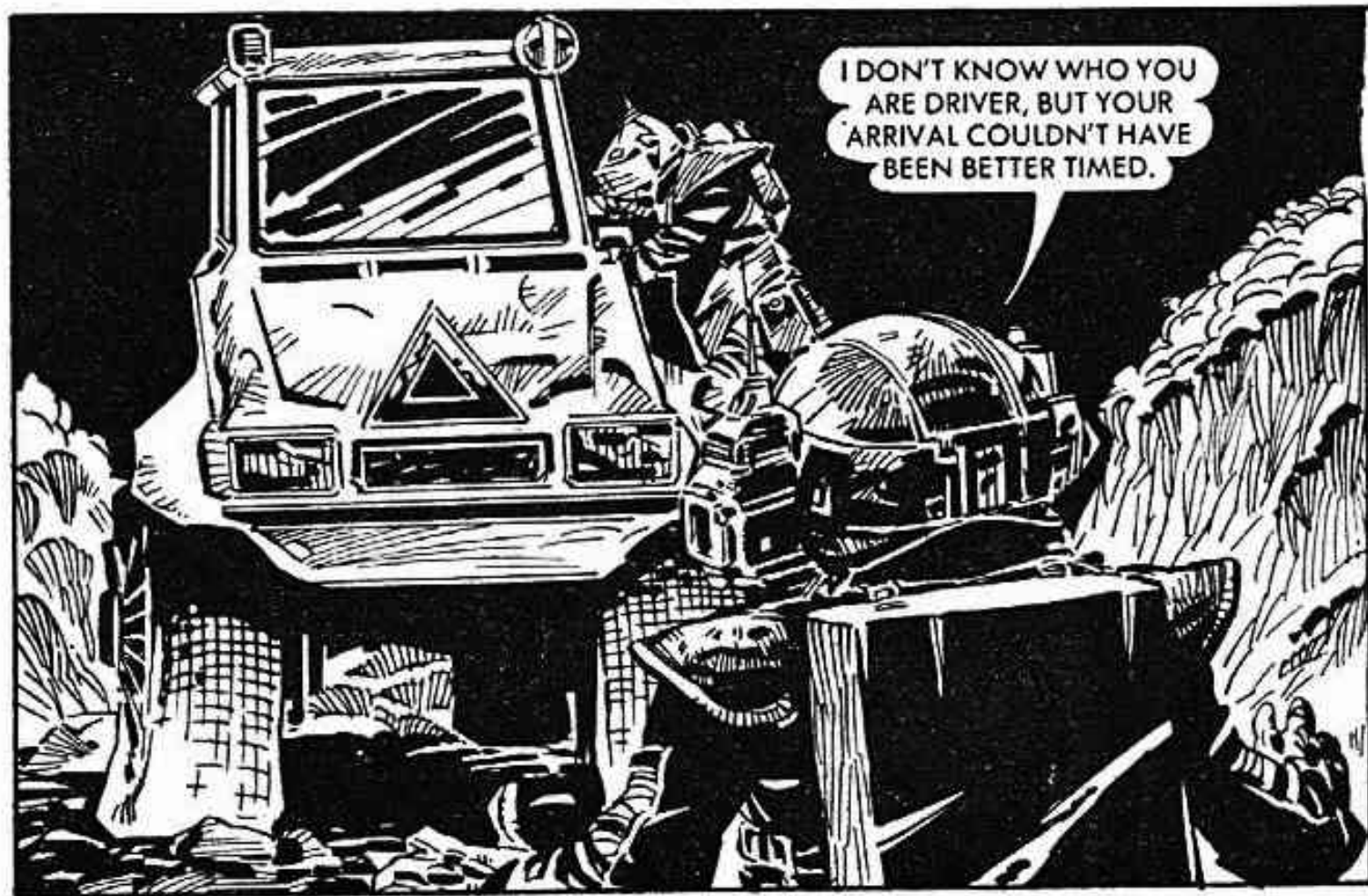


THERE MAY BE A SURVIVAL CAPSULE, LEFT OVER FROM A MINERAL PROSPECTING EXPEDITION, SOMEWHERE ON THE ASTEROID — IF I'M IN LUCK!





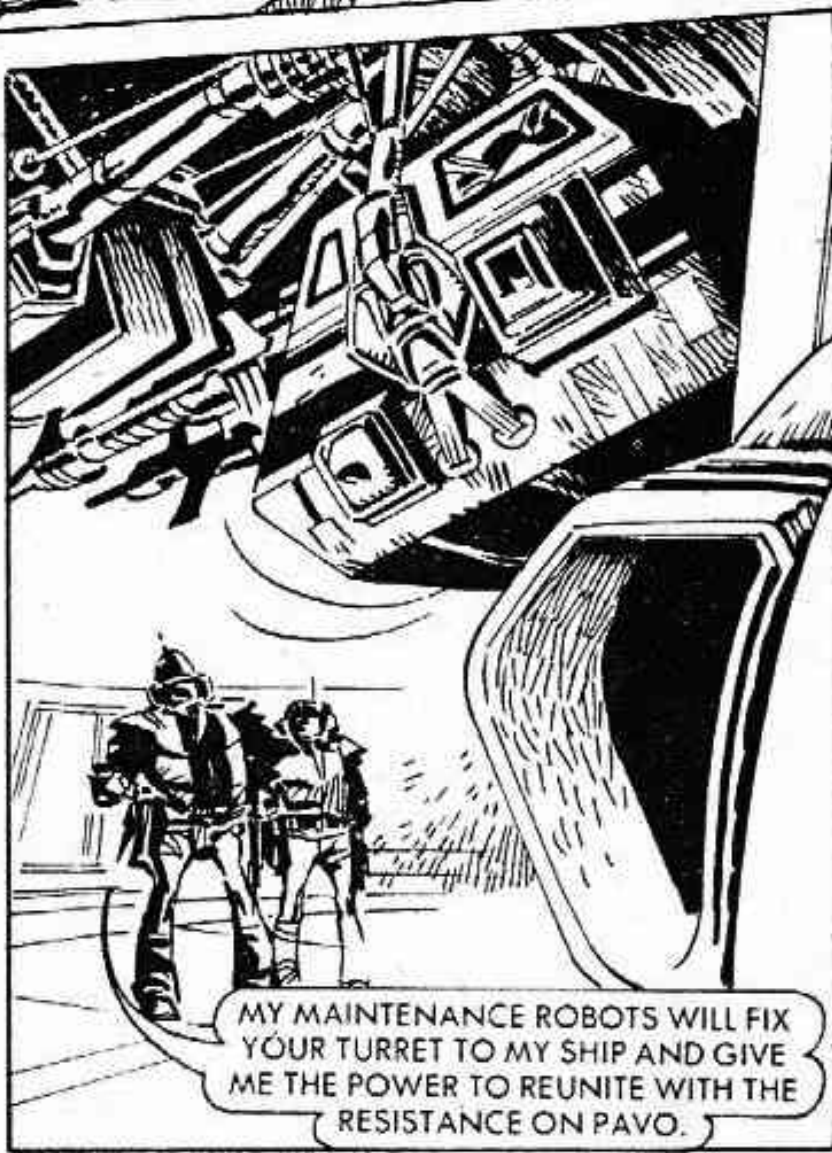
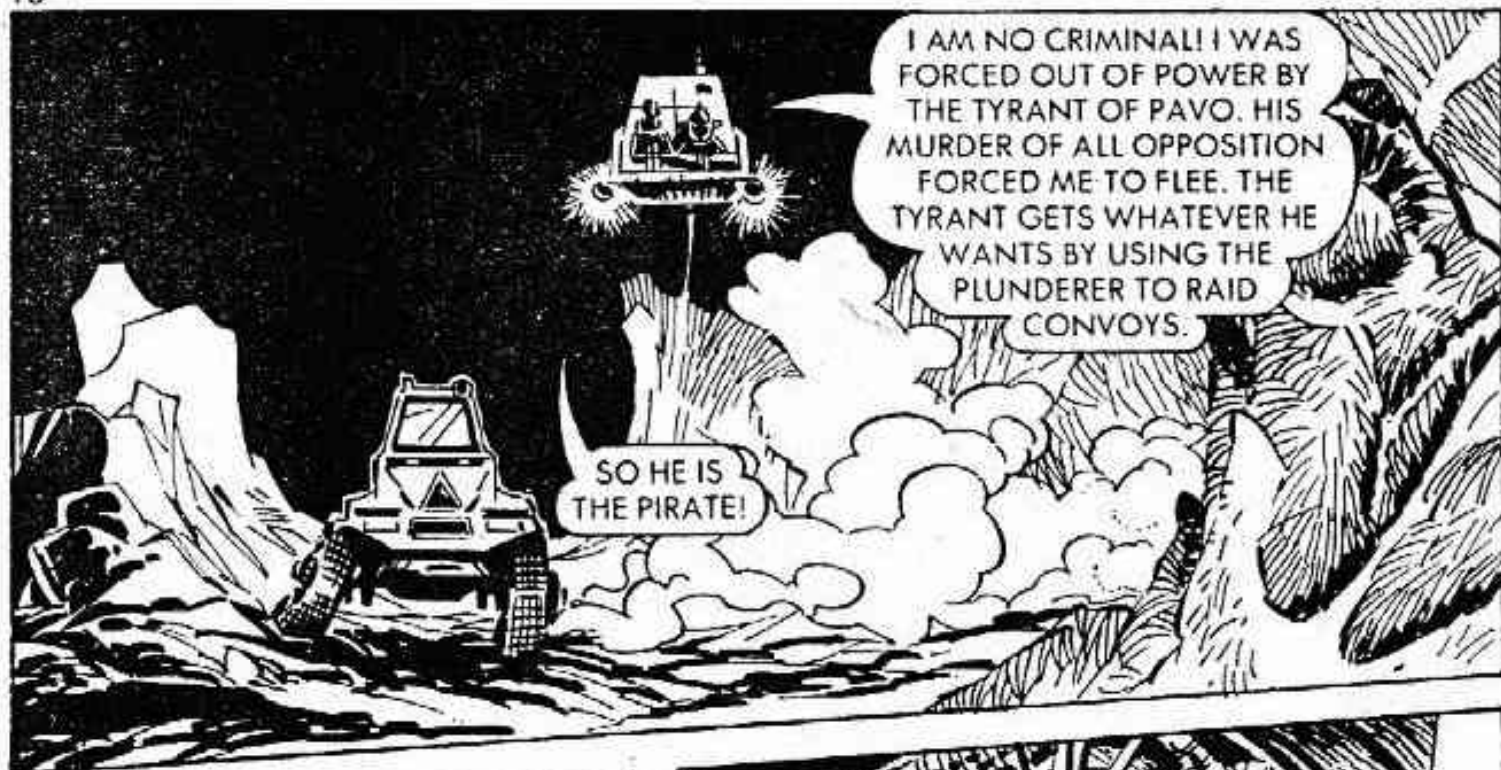
DARIEN WAS AMAZED WHEN A LUNAR MOBILE
RUMBLING INTO VIEW.





YUBEE KROLL USED ANTI-GRAV CARRI-PODS TO SALVAGE DARIEN'S GUN TURRET.





AFTER HOURS OF WORK, DARIEN AND KROLL
FINISHED THEIR JOB —



THE FREIGHTER SUCCESSFULLY TOOK OFF —

WHEN THE USURPER ATTACKED
PAVO I WAS FORCED TO FLEE IN THIS
UNARMED SHIP. YOUR TURRET NOW
GIVES ME THE POWER TO RETURN.

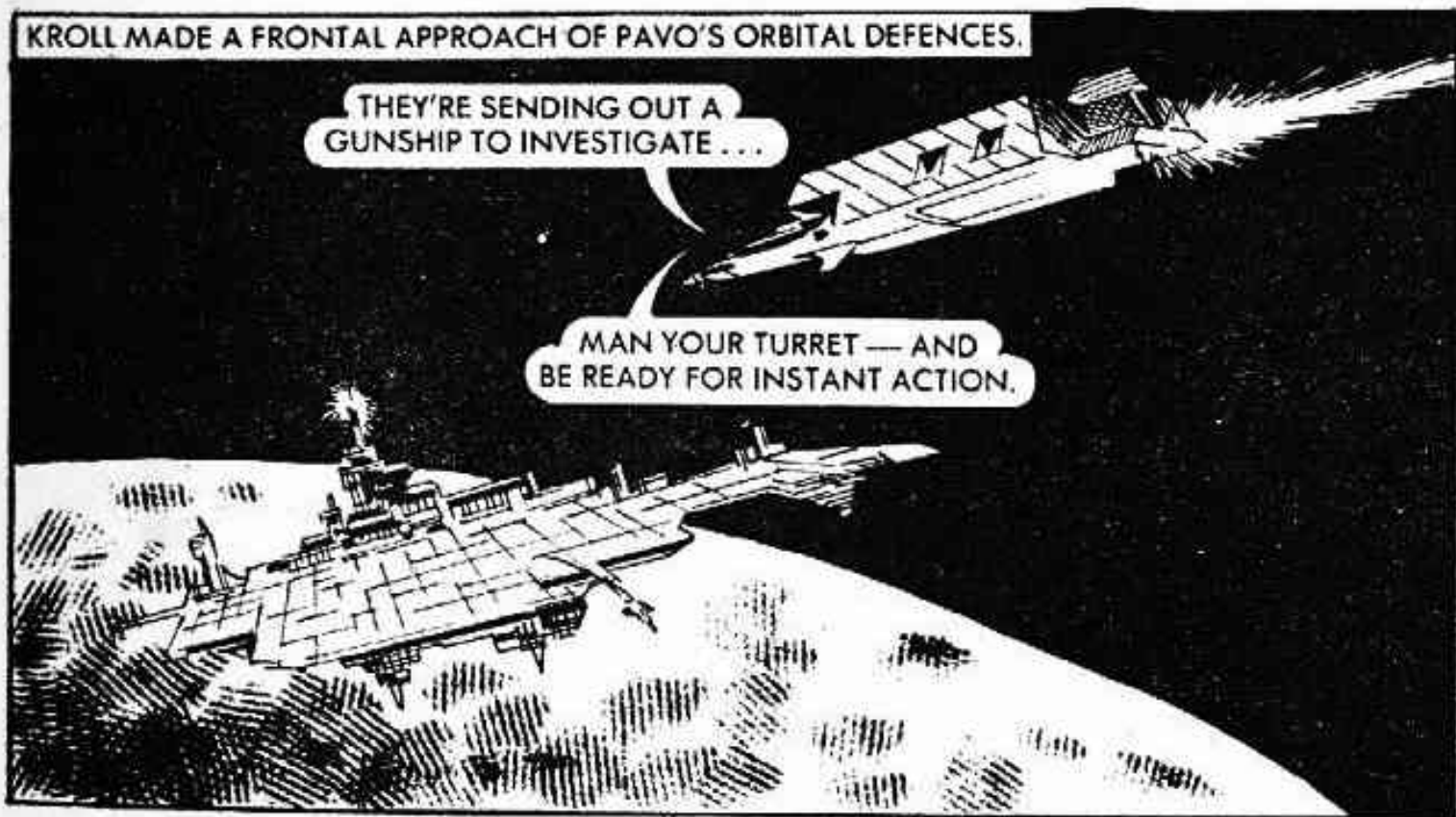
IT SEEMS WE'RE
AFTER THE SAME PERSON.



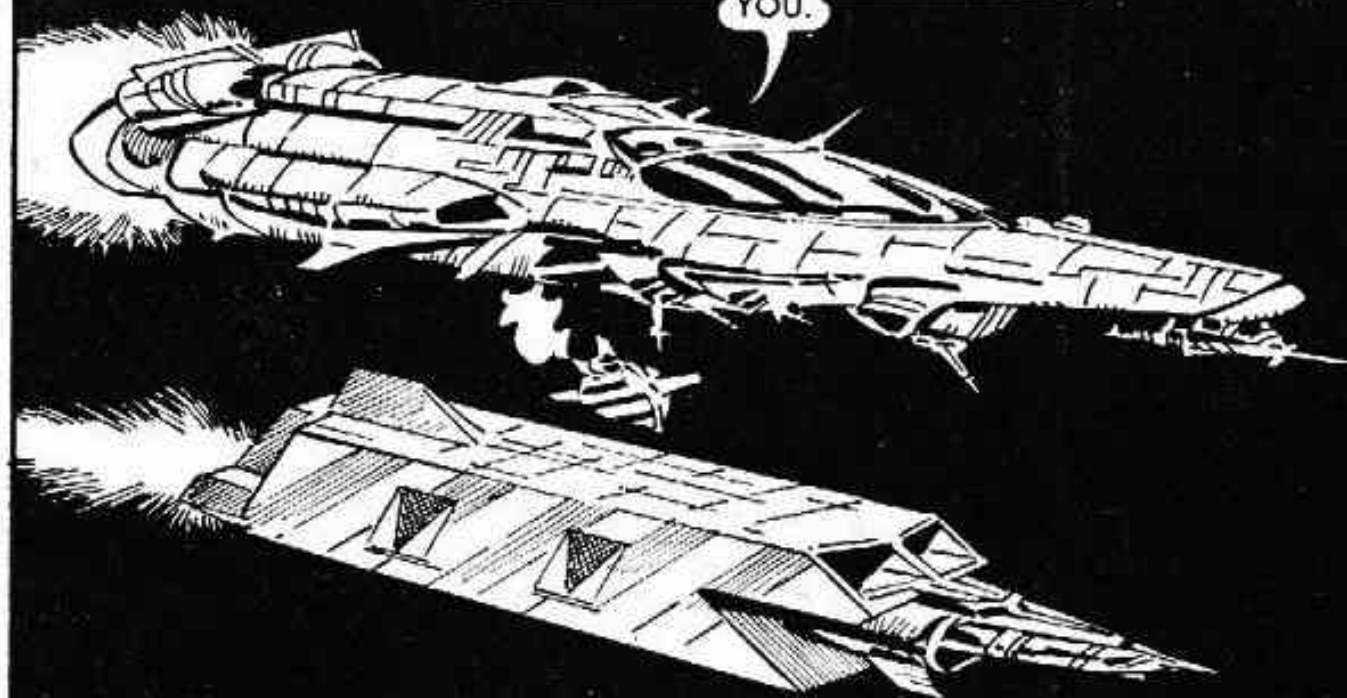
KROLL MADE A FRONTAL APPROACH OF PAVO'S ORBITAL DEFENCES.

THEY'RE SENDING OUT A
GUNSHIP TO INVESTIGATE ...

MAN YOUR TURRET — AND
BE READY FOR INSTANT ACTION.



ATTENTION FREIGHTER! YOU WILL PERMIT
THE BOARDING PARTY TO ESTABLISH YOUR
IDENTITY. IF YOU RESIST I WILL DESTROY
YOU.



AS THE PATROL CRAFT SPED TOWARDS THE OPEN AIRLOCK —

LOOK OUT!
IT'S A TRAP!






THE SUDDEN DESTRUCTION OF THE PATROL SHIP CAUGHT THE DUTY-OFFICER OF THE ORBITAL FORTRESS BY SURPRISE.




BEFORE ACTION STATIONS COULD BE
SOUNDED, DARIEN HAD THE RANGE OF
THE FORTRESS.

TAKE THE SHIP IN CLOSE — THEN
THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO GET THEIR
GUNS TO BEAR ON US.





WE'VE GOT PROBLEMS! THIS SHIP
WASN'T BUILT TO CARRY A TURRET,
IT'S CRACKING UP UNDER THE
STRAIN.



WE'LL NEVER SURVIVE THE FORCES
OF ATMOSPHERIC RE-ENTRY IN THIS
STATE.

SET YOUR TURRET ON AUTOMATIC
FIRE AND JOIN ME IN CONTROL.

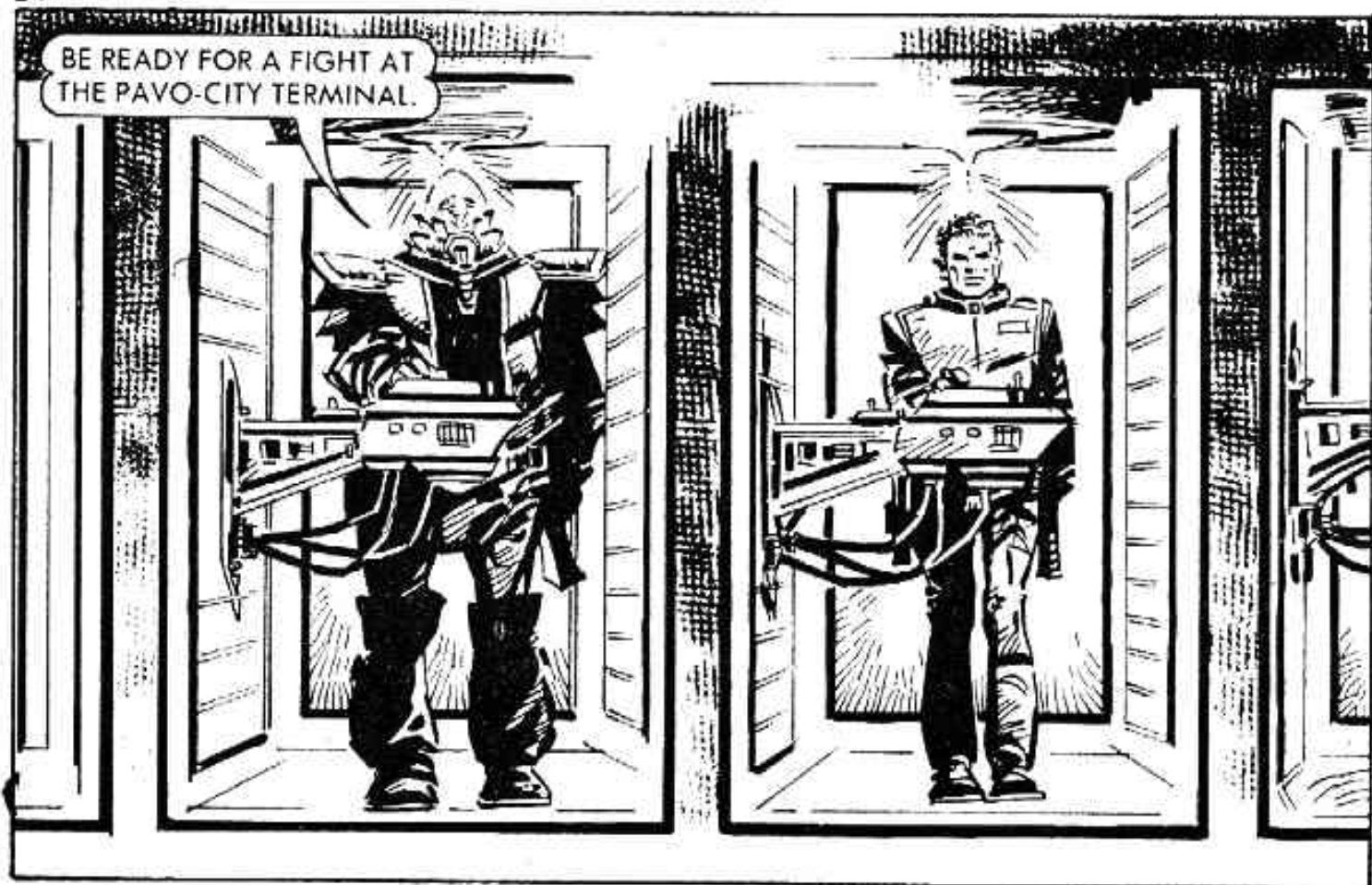




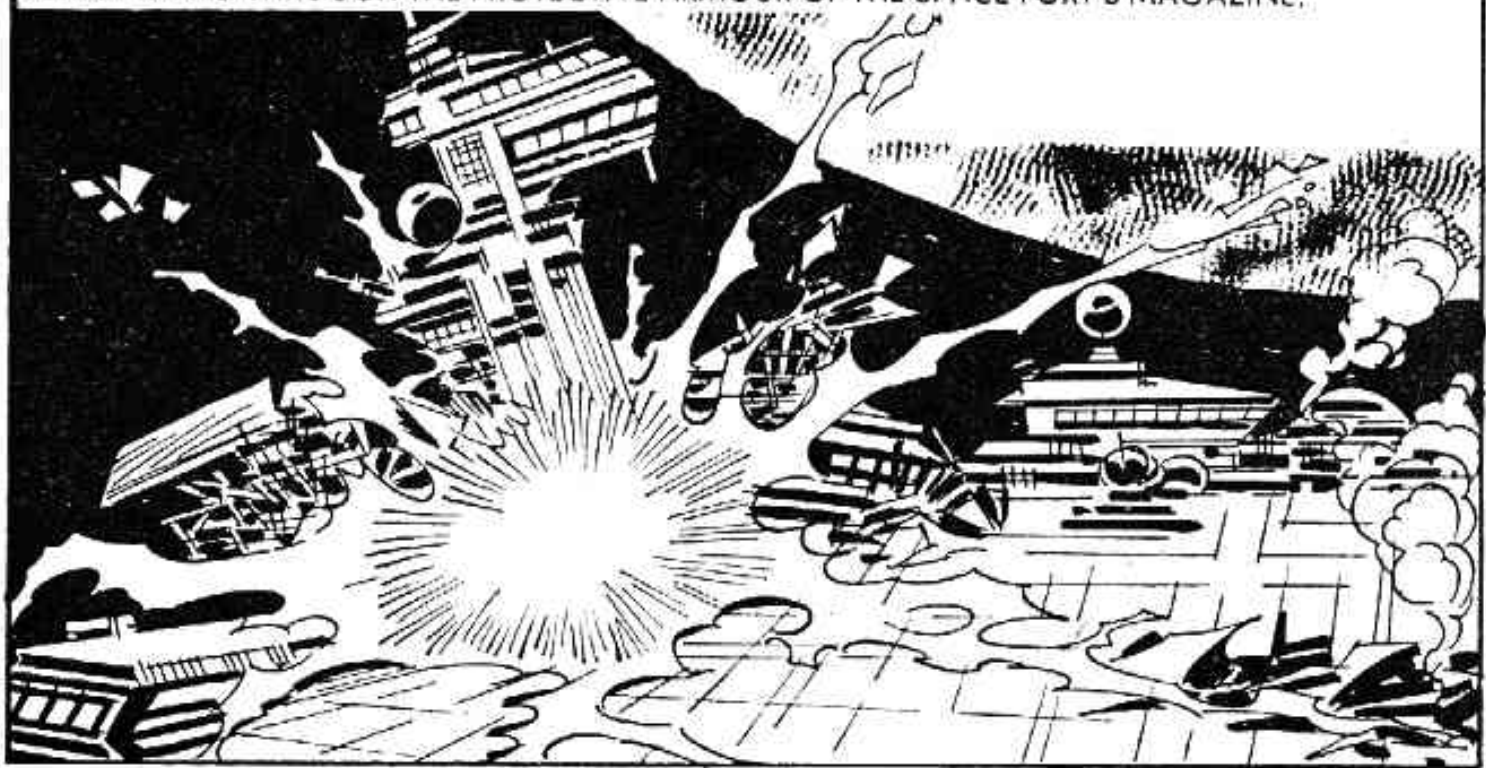
IN THE CHAOS CAUSED BY THE CRASH LANDING, NO CHALLENGE WAS MADE.



BE READY FOR A FIGHT AT
THE PAVO-CITY TERMINAL.



THE FIRST BLOW FOR THE LIBERATION OF PAVO CAME WHEN AUTO-FIRE FROM DARIEN'S
TURRET RIPPED THROUGH THE PROTECTIVE ARMOUR OF THE SPACE FORT'S MAGAZINE.



THE SECOND BLOW WAS STRUCK BY YUBEE AND DARIEN AS THEY MATERIALISED IN THE TELEPORT TERMINAL OF PAVO-CITY.

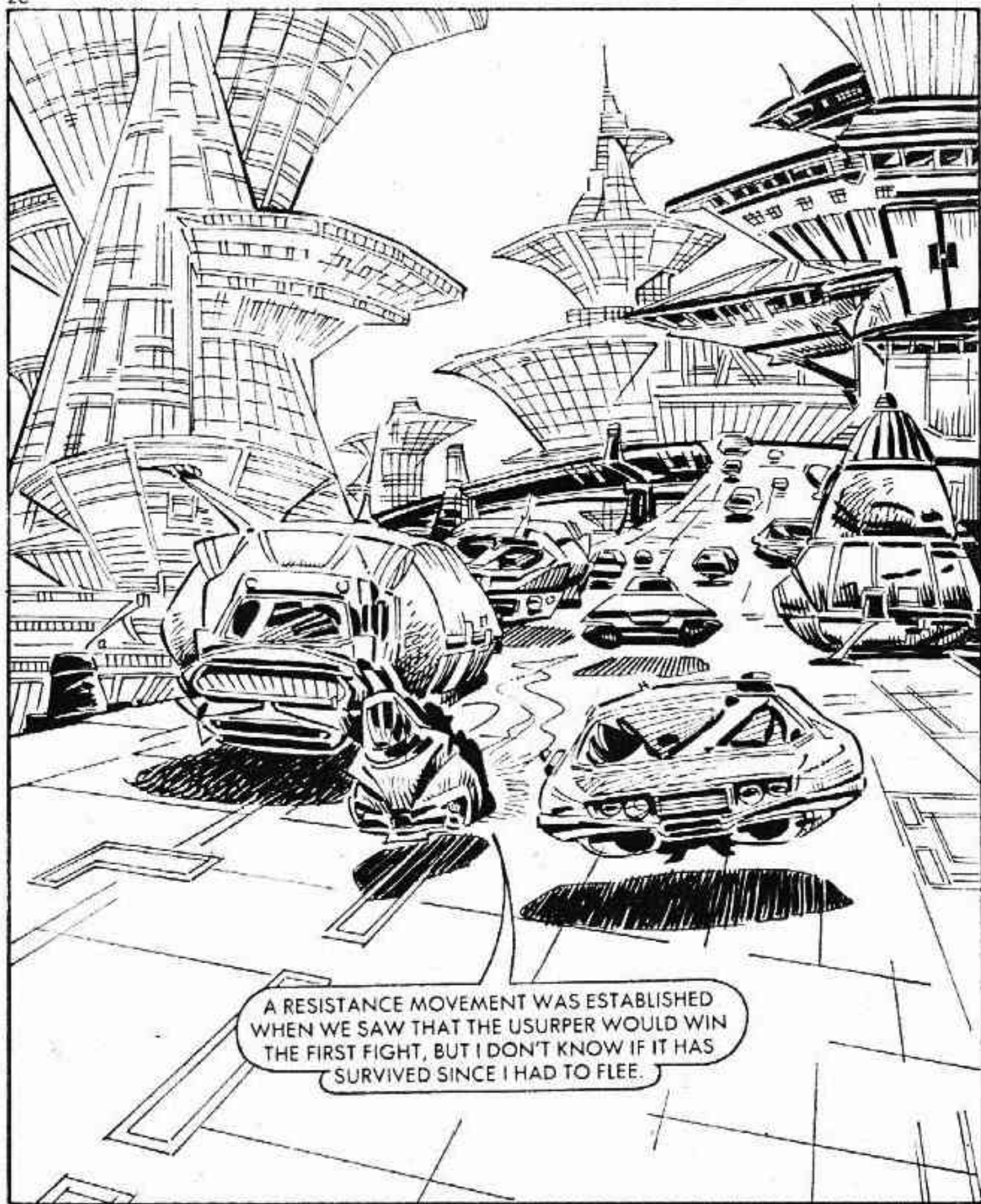
MAKE FOR THE MAIN
ENTRANCE WHERE
THERE'S A JET-BIKE
PARKING BAY!



WITH SURPRISE ON THEIR SIDE, YUBEE AND DARIEN ESCAPED TOWARDS THE CITY BACK STREETS.

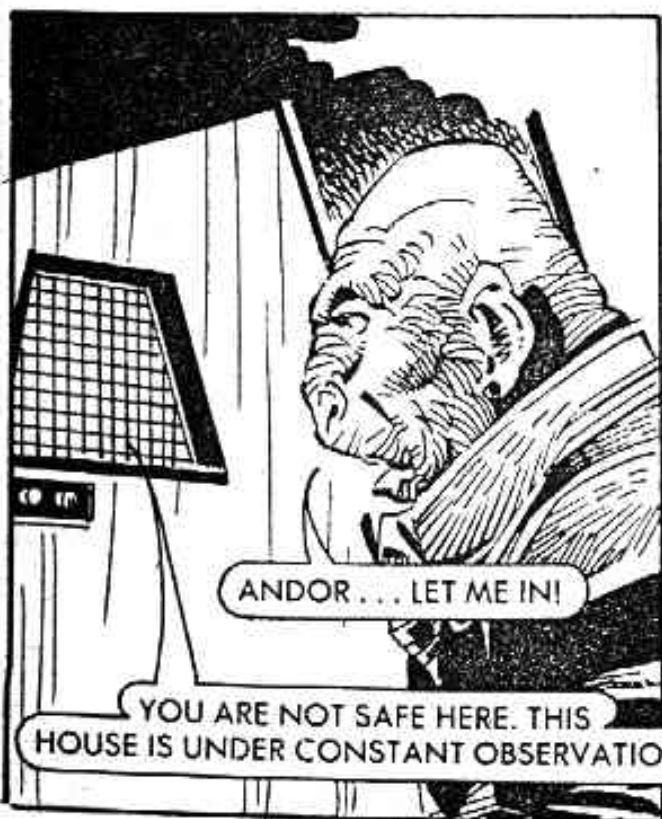
I KNOW WHERE I CAN CONTACT
THE RESISTANCE.





A RESISTANCE MOVEMENT WAS ESTABLISHED WHEN WE SAW THAT THE USURPER WOULD WIN THE FIRST FIGHT, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF IT HAS SURVIVED SINCE I HAD TO FLEE.

THEY STOPPED IN A QUIET BACKSTREET —



A LASER BURST MISSED YUBEE BY INCHES —

LET US IN KEEPER, IT IS TOO LATE FOR US TO TRY AND HIDE ELSEWHERE, WE'RE SURROUNDED!



FROM THEIR OBSERVATION POST, THE USURPER'S BRUTAL PATROLMAN SUMMONED HELP —

CALL H.Q. — WE'VE
CORNERED THE BIG ONE!



INSIDE THE DWELLBANK

WE HAVE AN ESCAPE ROUTE! HURRY
BEFORE THE PATROLMEN STORM THE
HOUSE — FOLLOW ME!

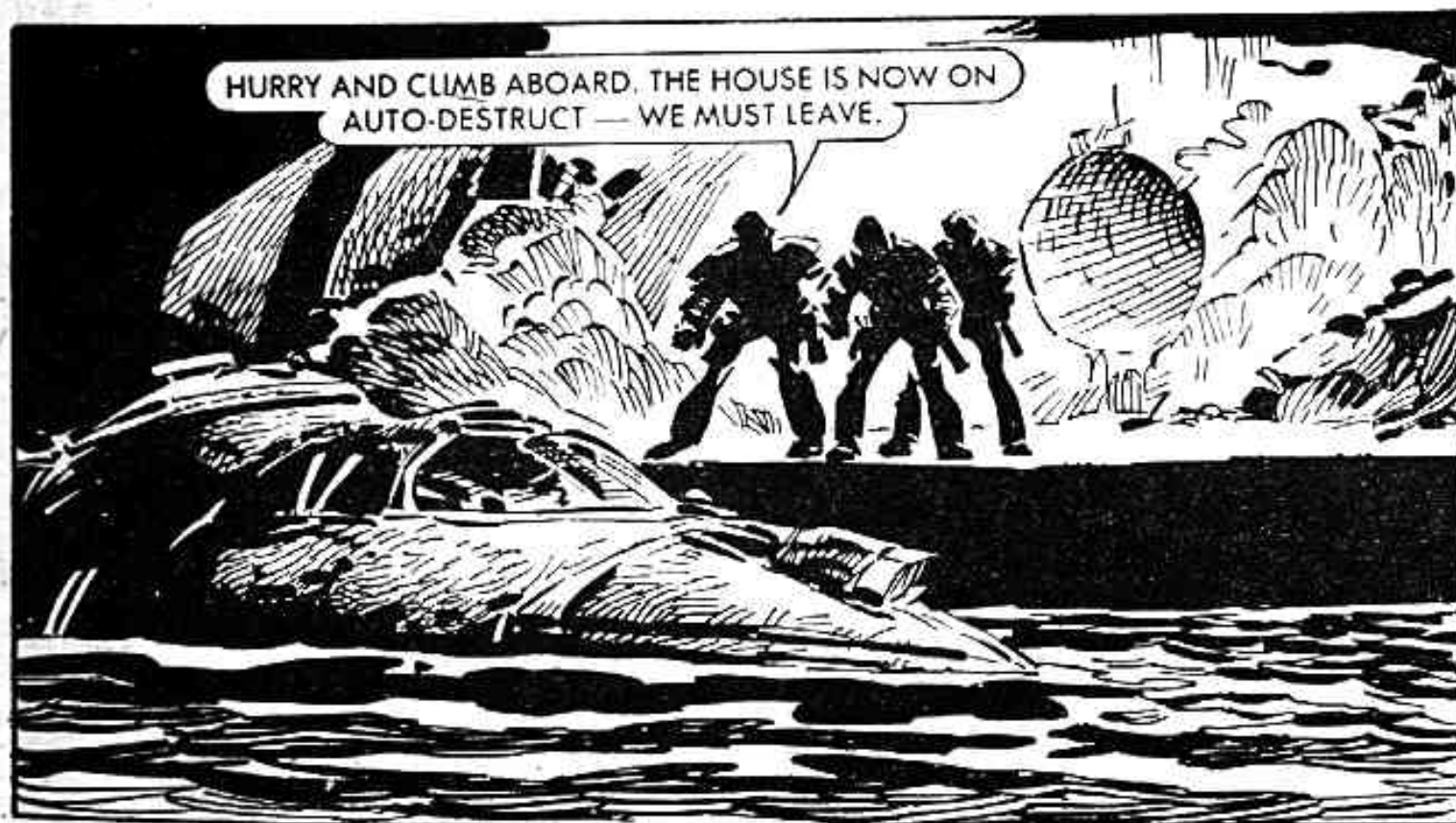


A SLIDE-TUBE CARRIED THE FUGITIVES DEEP INTO A BASEMENT.

WE BUILT THIS LINK WITH THE
UNDERGROUND RIVER FOR USE IN AN
EMERGENCY SUCH AS THIS.



HURRY AND CLIMB ABOARD. THE HOUSE IS NOW ON
AUTO-DESTRUCT — WE MUST LEAVE.



THEY QUICKLY BOARDED A SUBMERSIBLE ESCAPE POD —

HAS THE USURPER UNCOVERED
ALL OUR ORGANISATION?

THE CITY IS HIS, BUT WE HAVE A
STRONGHOLD IN THE WASTELANDS WHERE
I WILL TAKE YOU.



BUT EVEN THE ESCAPE ROUTE WAS KNOWN —

LOOK OUT! THERE'S
AN OBSTRUCTION AHEAD!



BUT THE SUBMERSIBLE PLOUGHED INTO THE NEUTRON MESH —



THE CABIN MODULE EJECTED FROM THE HULL
OF THE WRECKED MIDGET SUBMARINE —

WE'RE FREE, BUT WE CAN ONLY
FLOAT NOW.



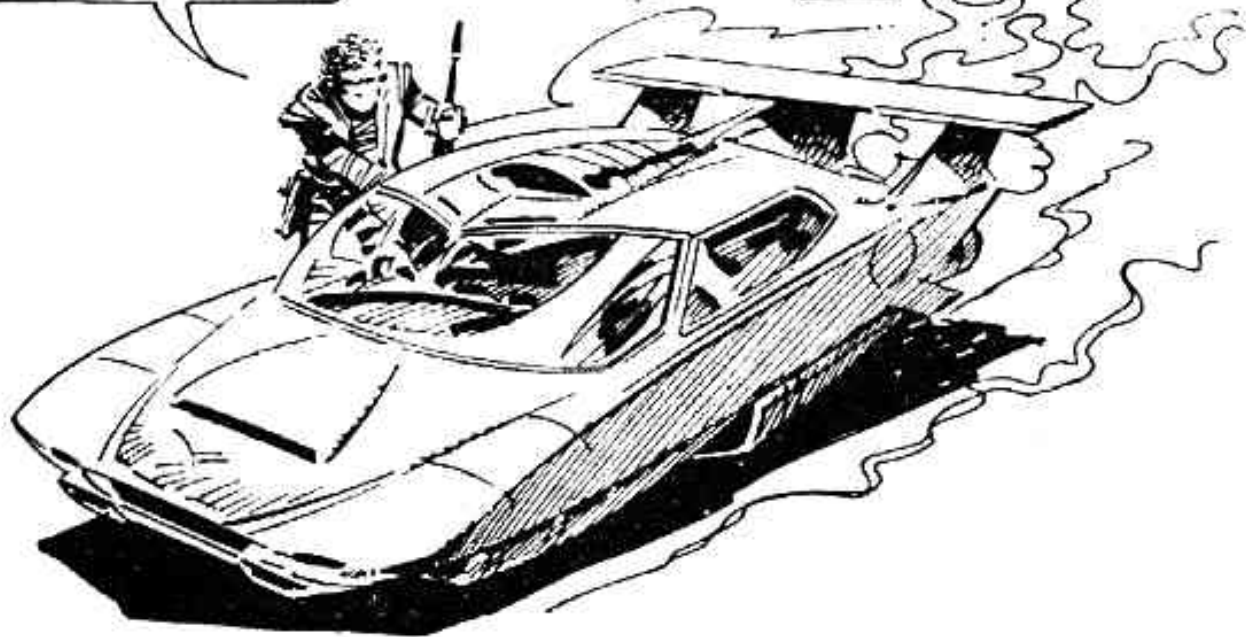
KEEP WATCH FOR THE PATROLS WHILE
I TRY TO GET A GRAPPLE LINE ASHORE.



YOU GET YUBEE TO WHERE HE'S NEEDED.
I'LL COVER YOUR ESCAPE.



YOU'RE MORE IMPORTANT
THAN ME — GET OUT OF HERE.





THE HIGH-SPEED PENETRATIVE LIGHT ENERGY BLEW THE PURSUING VEHICLE APART —





A FEW UNITS LATER, THE TYRANT USURPER OF PAVO CALLED FOR NEWS —

KROLL HAS ESCAPED, AND THE PRISONER'S MIND DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY USEFUL INFORMATION.

I WILL SEE THE PRISONER! BRING HIM!

DARIEN WAS DRAGGED TO THE USURPER'S CHAMBER —

YOU ARE NO MAN OF PAVO. WHO ARE YOU?

I AM A SURVIVOR FROM ONE OF YOUR PLUNDERER RAIDS —

FORNIO PERS



TAKE HIM TO THE POLAR CAP.
THERE HE SHALL DIE.



DARIEN WAS TRANSPORTED TO THE POLAR REGION OF PAVO.

WE HAVE ARRIVED AT
YOUR PLACE OF DEATH.



DARIEN WAS ESCORTED OFF THE TRANSPORT —

THIS IS WHERE YOU DIE! THE COLD WILL
KILL YOU . . . OR THE BEASTS. DON'T
IMAGINE YOU CAN ESCAPE — IT'S BARREN
MARSHLAND FOR MILES ON ALL SIDES.









WE'VE SUSPENDED THE SHUTTLE ON STRUTS. THE BOLTED SUPPORTS CAN BE EXPLOSIVELY RELEASED ONCE THE SHIP IS HOVERING UNDER ITS OWN POWER.

DARIEN CLIMBED INTO THE SHUTTLE ---

WE MADE THIS BOMB FROM WHAT LITTLE NUCLEAR FUEL WE HAD. DROP IT ON THE DEFENCE SHIELD GENERATOR OF THE SPACE PORT AND WE'LL DO THE REST.

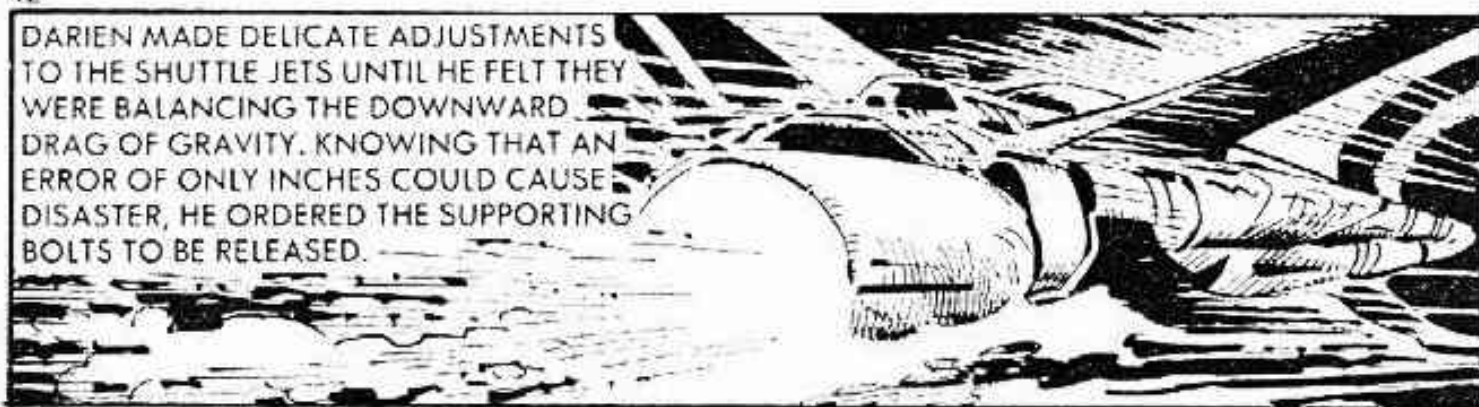
UNDERSTOOD! NOW STAND BY TO FIRE THOSE BOLTS.



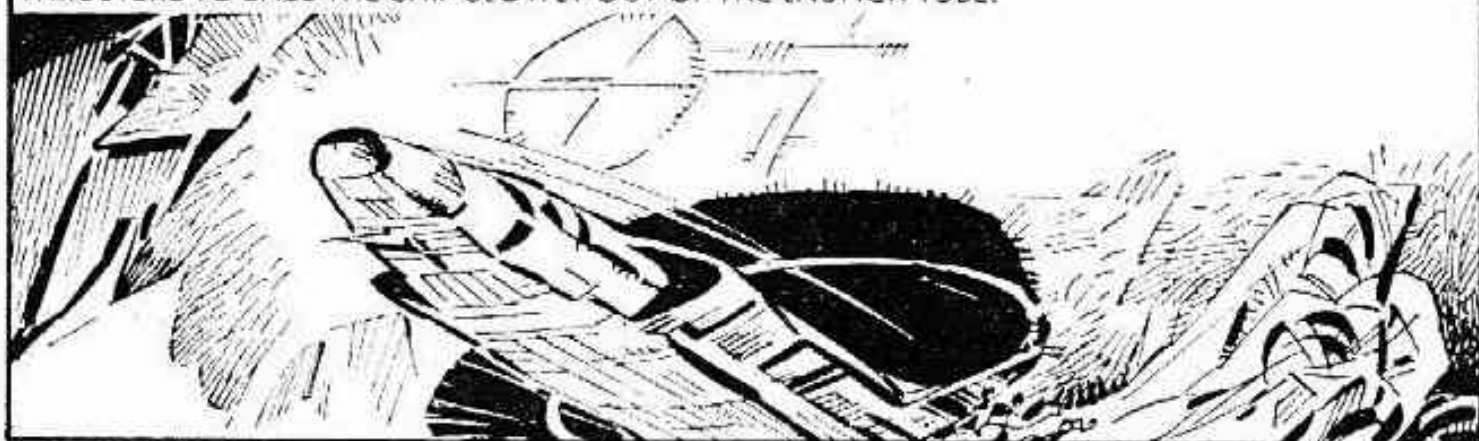
MOST OF THE CIRCUITS ARE DEAD. I'LL HAVE TO JUDGE THE INSTANT OF TAKE-OFF BY ENGINE NOISE.



DARIEN MADE DELICATE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE SHUTTLE JETS UNTIL HE FELT THEY WERE BALANCING THE DOWNWARD DRAG OF GRAVITY. KNOWING THAT AN ERROR OF ONLY INCHES COULD CAUSE DISASTER, HE ORDERED THE SUPPORTING BOLTS TO BE RELEASED.



FOR AN INSTANT THE SHUTTLE HUNG POISED, THEN GRADUALLY DARIEN ADJUSTED THE THRUSTERS TO EASE THE SHIP SLOWLY OUT OF THE LAUNCH TUBE.



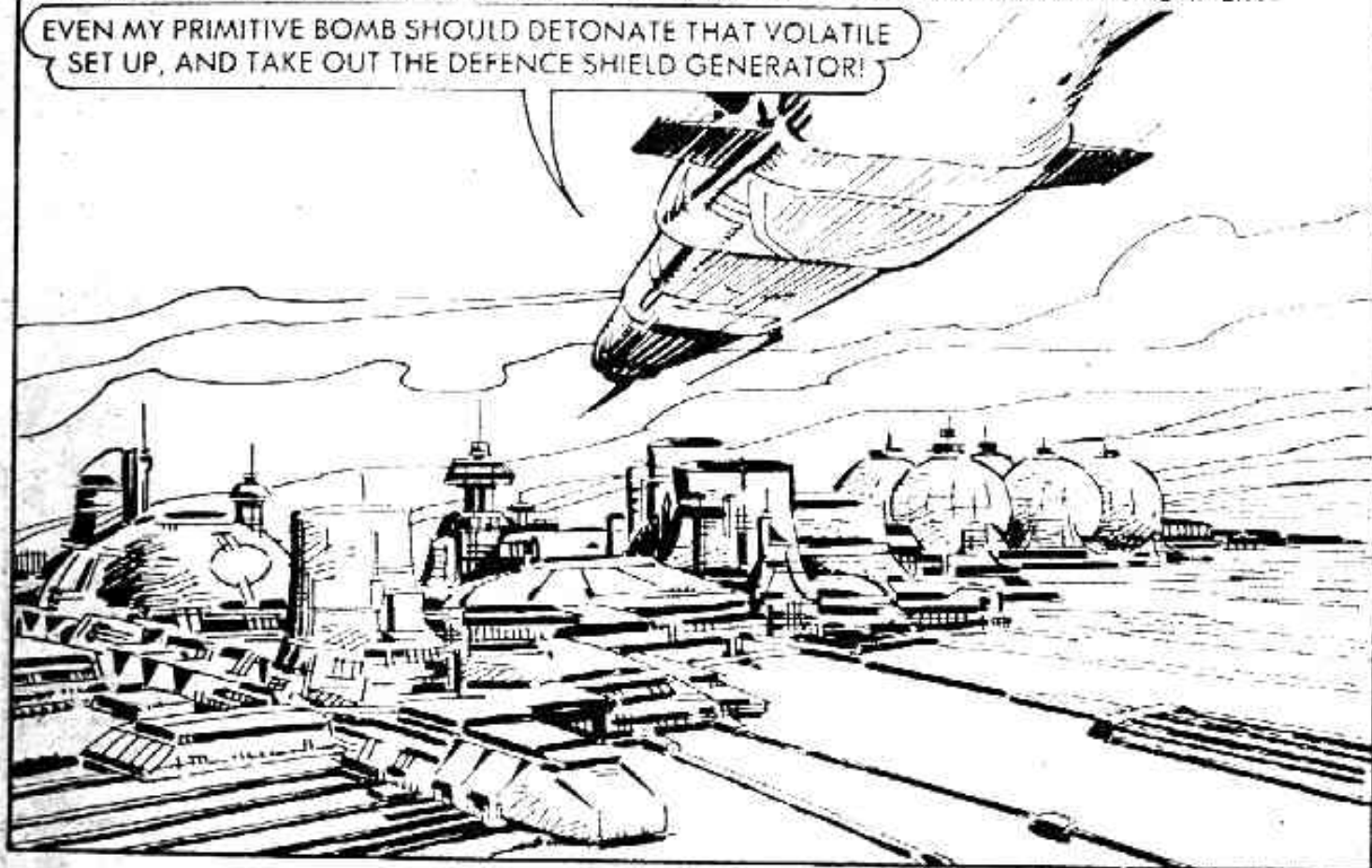
WHAT SHIP IS THAT?

IT CAME FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE PRISON HULK, BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.



THE WORK OF THE PRISON CAMP HAD BEEN PIPE LAYING TO FEED A MARSH GAS REFINERY.

EVEN MY PRIMITIVE BOMB SHOULD DETONATE THAT VOLATILE SET UP, AND TAKE OUT THE DEFENCE SHIELD GENERATOR!



THE CRUDE BOMB EXPLODED ON THE REFINERY —



IN THE WAKE OF THE EXPLOSION THE UPRISING CAUGHT THE USURPER'S FORCES ILL-PREPARED.



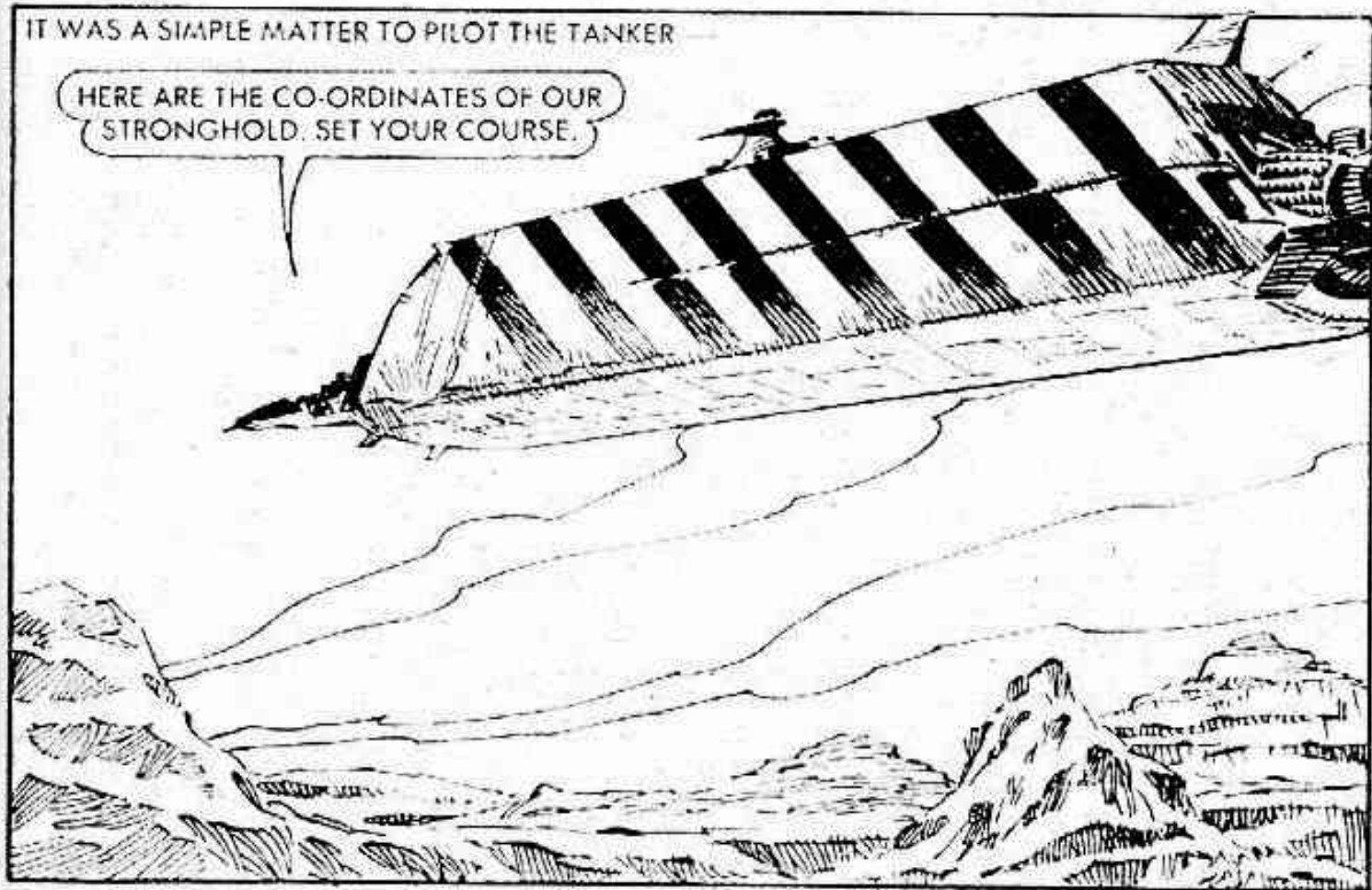
DARIEN TOUCHED DOWN


IT LOOKS LIKE MY NEXT
PILOTING MISSION IS TO
GET THE ESCAPED
PRISONERS AIRBORNE.



IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO PILOT THE TANKER


HERE ARE THE CO-ORDINATES OF OUR
STRONGHOLD. SET YOUR COURSE.





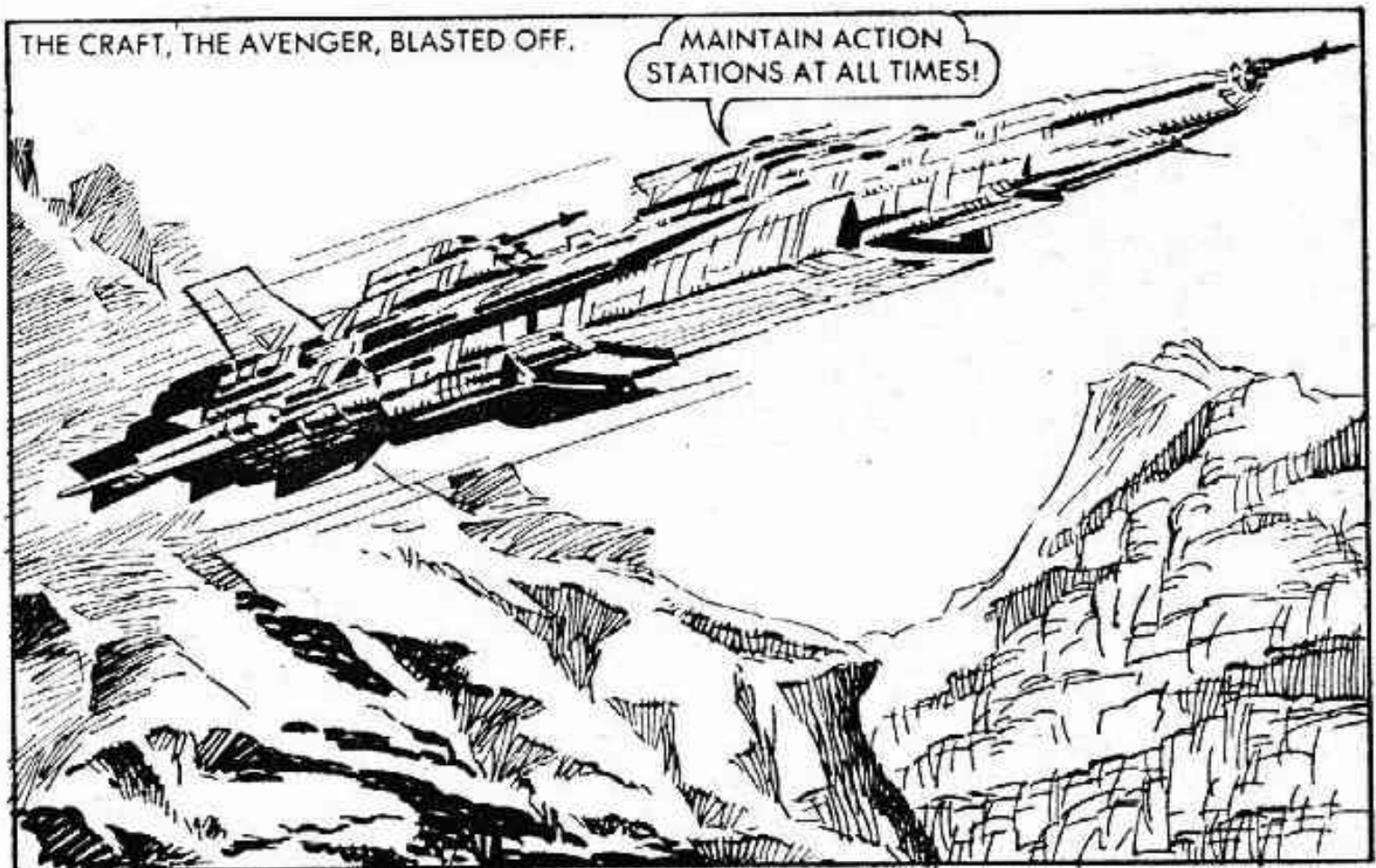
I HOPE NOBODY ATTACKS US BECAUSE
THIS SHIP IS FULLY LOADED WITH VOLATILE
BOOSTER FUEL.

DARIEN REACHED THE REBEL'S STRONGHOLD WITHOUT ANY INCIDENT —



YOU ARE IN TIME TO JOIN OUR STRIKE
AGAINST YOUR OLD ENEMY THE PLUNDERER.

IT'LL BE GOOD TO
GET SPACEBORNE AGAIN.



SCAN-SCREENS REGISTER
PATROL SHIPS CLOSING RAPIDLY.



IDENTIFY YOURSELF —
OR BE DESTROYED.

I AM THE AVENGER, THE ENEMY
OF THE USURPER!



EVEN WITH AN UNTESTED SHIP AND AN UNTRIED CREW, YUBEE KROLL OBLITERATED THE ENEMY UNITS.

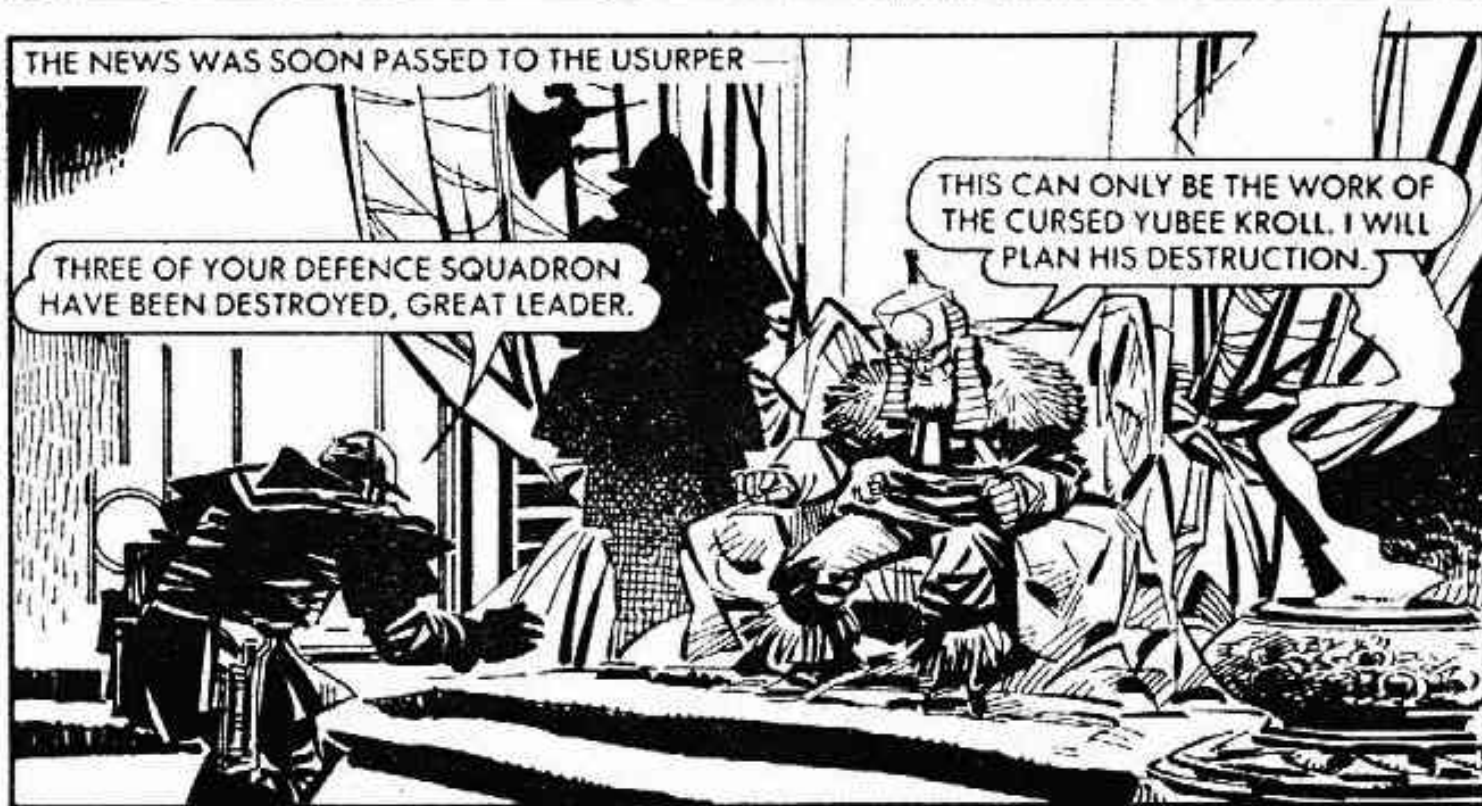
ANOTHER BLOW FOR FREEDOM
HAS BEEN STRUCK!



THE NEWS WAS SOON PASSED TO THE USURPER —

THREE OF YOUR DEFENCE SQUADRON
HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, GREAT LEADER.

THIS CAN ONLY BE THE WORK OF
THE CURSED YUBEE KROLL. I WILL
PLAN HIS DESTRUCTION.





MEANWHILE YUBEE KROLL HEADED FOR THE PLUNDERER'S SUPPLY BASE.



ASTEROID, VISUAL SIGHTING
DEAD AHEAD . . . AND CLOSE!

ORDER THE PILOT TO TAKE EVASIVE
ACTION. THE BASE MUST BE
COMPLETELY BLANKETED AGAINST
ELECTRONIC DETECTION.



I CAN SEE THE BASE IN A HOLLOWED
OUT CRATER, BUT THE PLUNDERER
SHIP ISN'T THERE.

WE'LL MAKE SURE THE BASE
IS NEVER FIT FOR USE AGAIN.



YUBEE AND DARIEN JETTED DOWN TO THE
ASTEROID —

SHOOT AT THE FIRST SIGN
OF RESISTANCE.



THEY SET UP A PROTON FIRESTORM —

THAT'S FOR PAVO!!





DARIEN EXPLORED THE STORE ROOMS OF THE PLUNDERER'S BASE.



YUBEE AND DARIEN REFITTED THE AVENGER WITH
SPARE PARTS FROM THE PLUNDERER.



MEANWHILE, THE SECURITY BEAM WHICH LINKED
THE BASE WITH THE SHIP HAD BEEN DISCOVERED.



THIS IS YUBEE KROLL
CALLING THE PLUNDERER:
YOUR BASE IS IN MY HANDS!
SWITCH TO YOUR SECURITY
TRANSMIT BEAM FOR
PROOF.

THE PLUNDERER SHOWED HIMSELF —

IT IS THE USURPER!

ENJOY YOUR TRIUMPH, FOR
I SWEAR IT WILL BE SHORT LIVED!

HEAR THIS PLUNDERER:
YOUR FIGHT IS NOT
JUST WITH THE PEOPLE
OF PAVO BUT ALSO
WITH THE FORCES OF
EARTH.

I SHOT YOUR SHIP FROM UNDER YOU
ONCE TERRAN SCUM, AND WILL DO SO AGAIN!

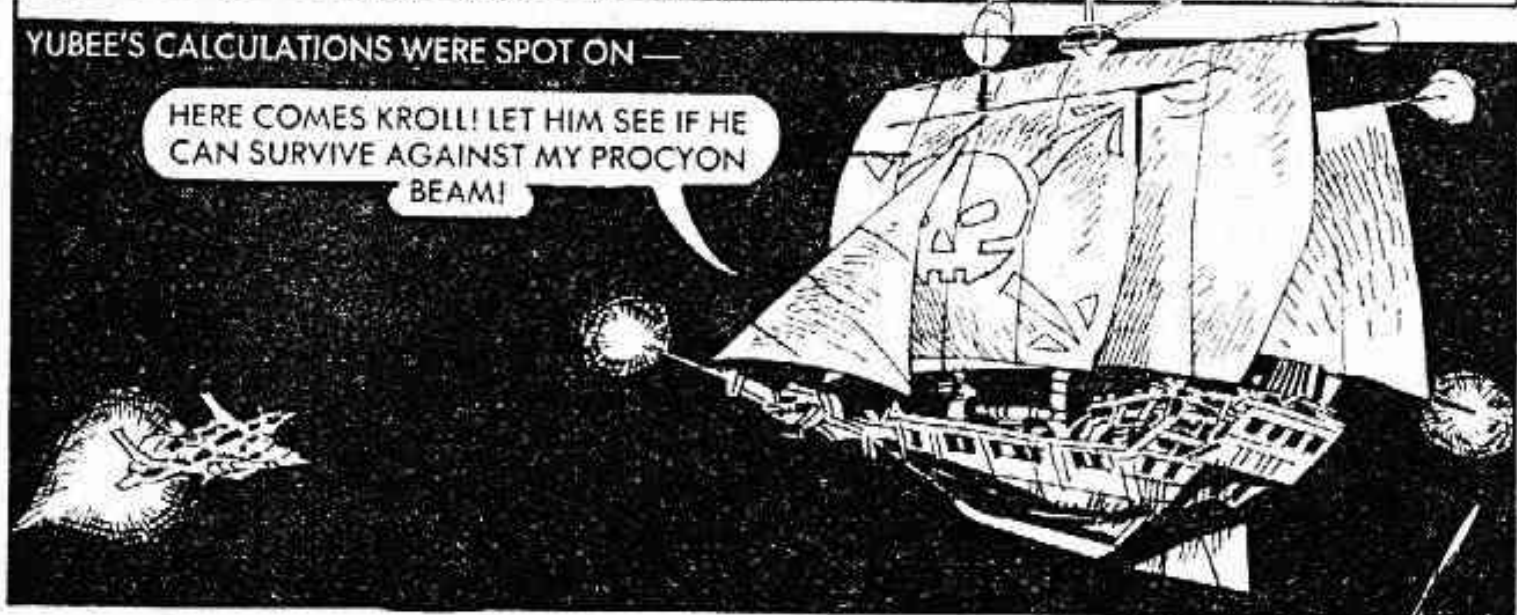
YUBEE AIMED THE AVENGER AT THE LAST PLOTTED POSITION OF THE PLUNDERER.

DARIEN SHEEN CALLING ALL UNITS OF
EARTH PATROL — STAND BY TO
RECEIVE AN EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR
ASSISTANCE.

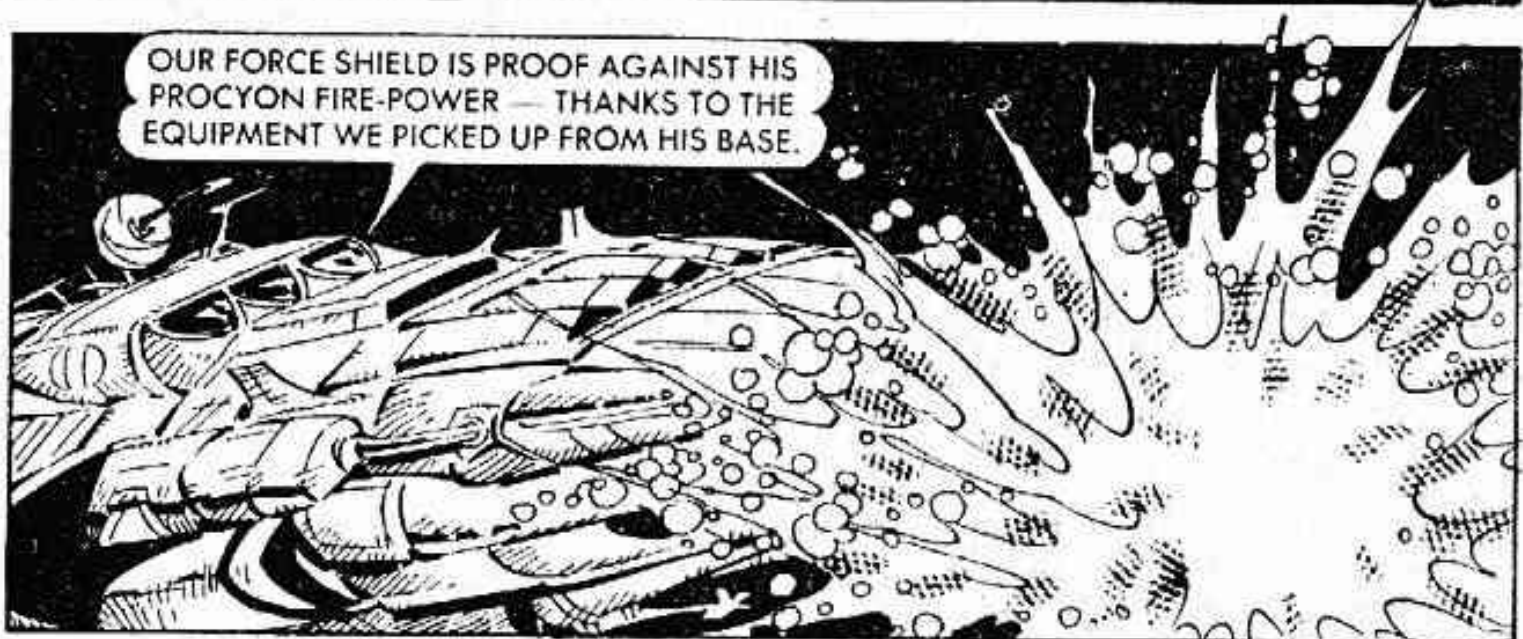


YUBEE'S CALCULATIONS WERE SPOT ON —

HERE COMES KROLL! LET HIM SEE IF HE
CAN SURVIVE AGAINST MY PROCYON
BEAM!



OUR FORCE SHIELD IS PROOF AGAINST HIS
PROCYON FIRE-POWER — THANKS TO THE
EQUIPMENT WE PICKED UP FROM HIS BASE.

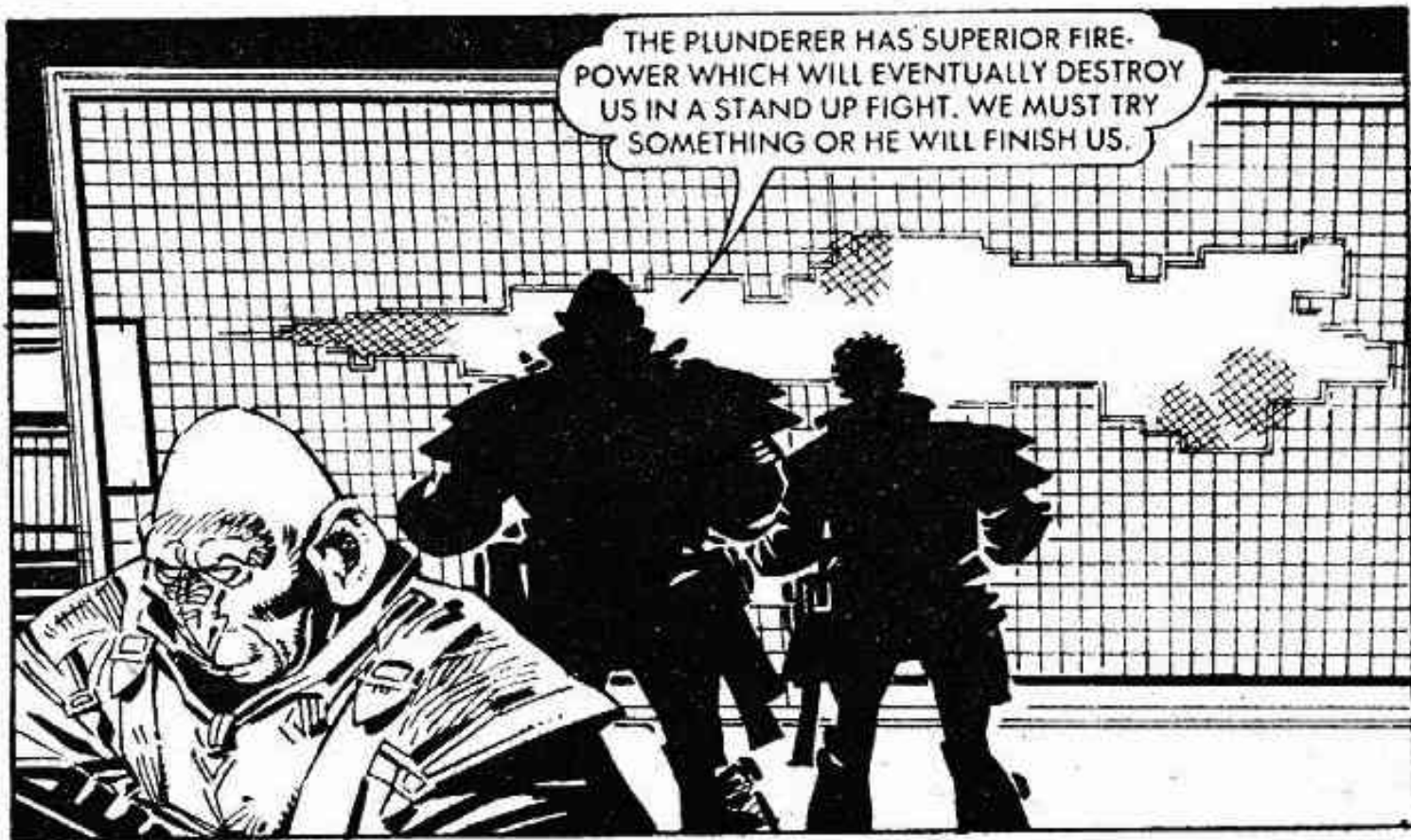


GAPS WERE OPENED IN THE AVENGER'S
FORCE SHIELD TO ALLOW OFFENSIVE FIRE
AGAINST THE PLUNDERER.



WE'RE HAVING NO EFFECT ON HIS SHIELDS.
THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG FIGHT.

THE PLUNDERER HAS SUPERIOR FIRE-
POWER WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY DESTROY
US IN A STAND UP FIGHT. WE MUST TRY
SOMETHING OR HE WILL FINISH US.

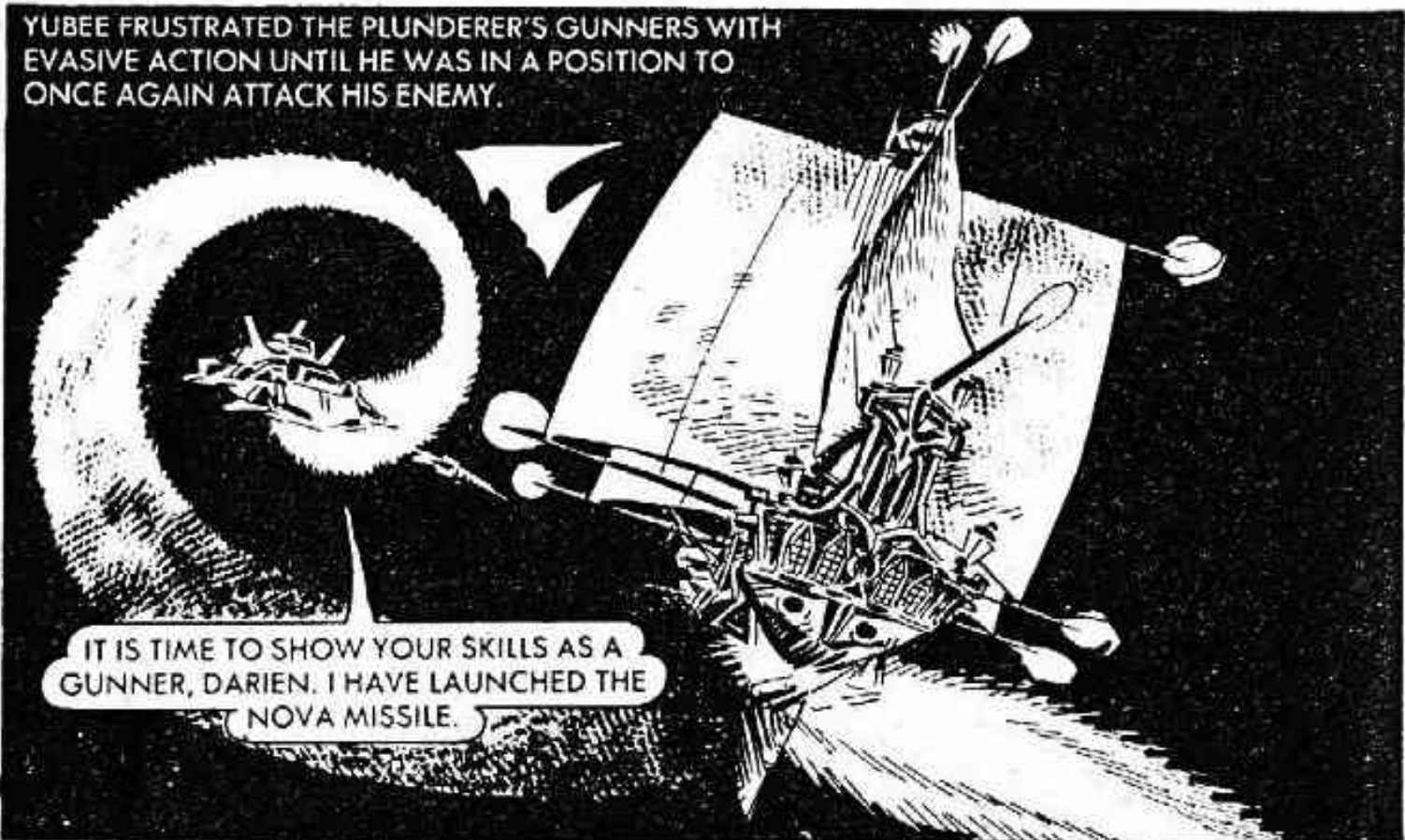


THE USURPER WATCHED THE BATTLE —

KROLL IS NO MATCH FOR THE POWER OF
THE PLUNDERER, ALREADY HE IS ON THE
RUN!

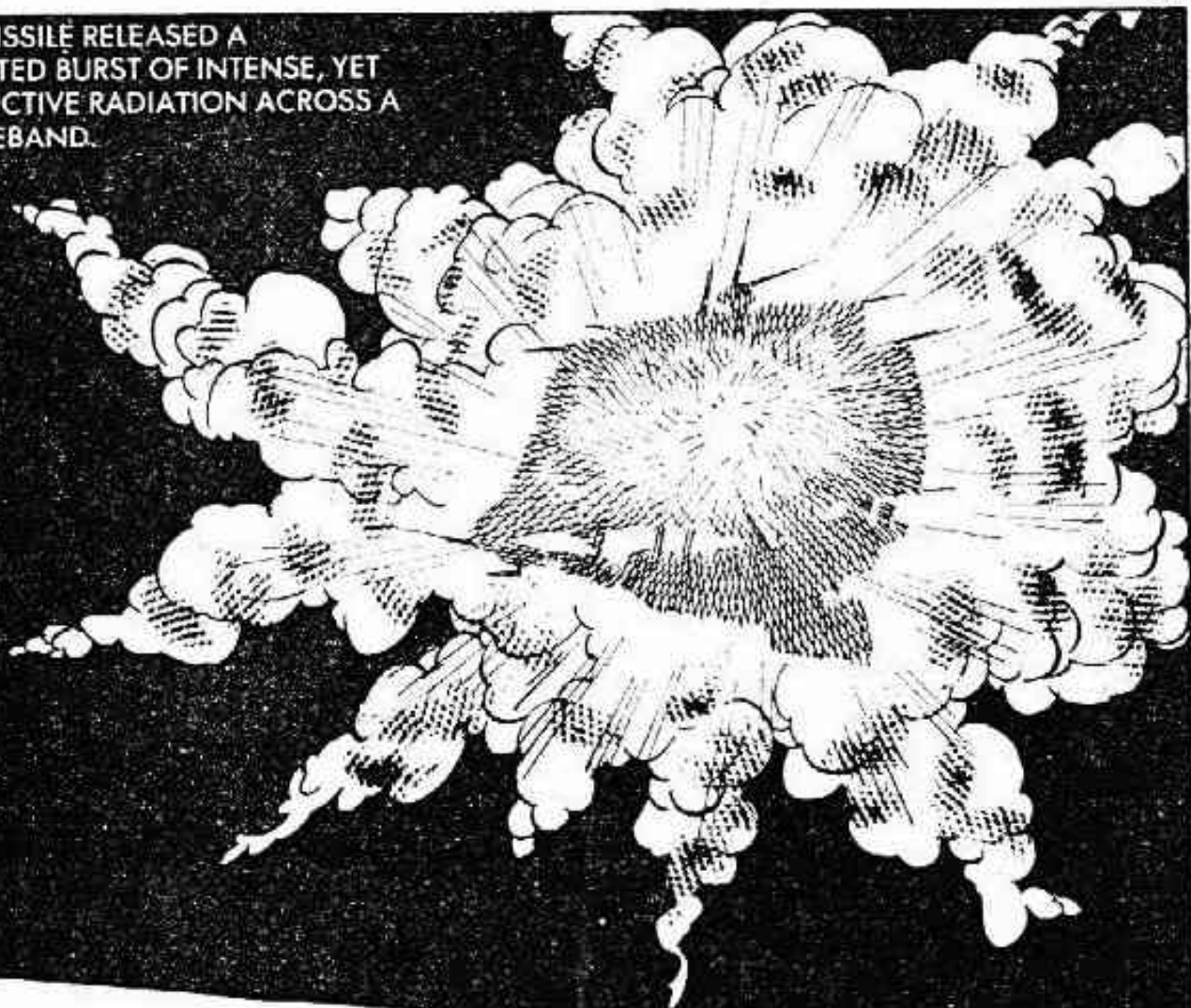


YUBEE FRUSTRATED THE PLUNDERER'S GUNNERS WITH
EVASIVE ACTION UNTIL HE WAS IN A POSITION TO
ONCE AGAIN ATTACK HIS ENEMY.



IT IS TIME TO SHOW YOUR SKILLS AS A
GUNNER, DARIEN. I HAVE LAUNCHED THE
NOVA MISSILE.

THE NOVA MISSILE RELEASED A
CONCENTRATED BURST OF INTENSE, YET
NON-DESTRUCTIVE RADIATION ACROSS A
BROAD WAVEBAND.

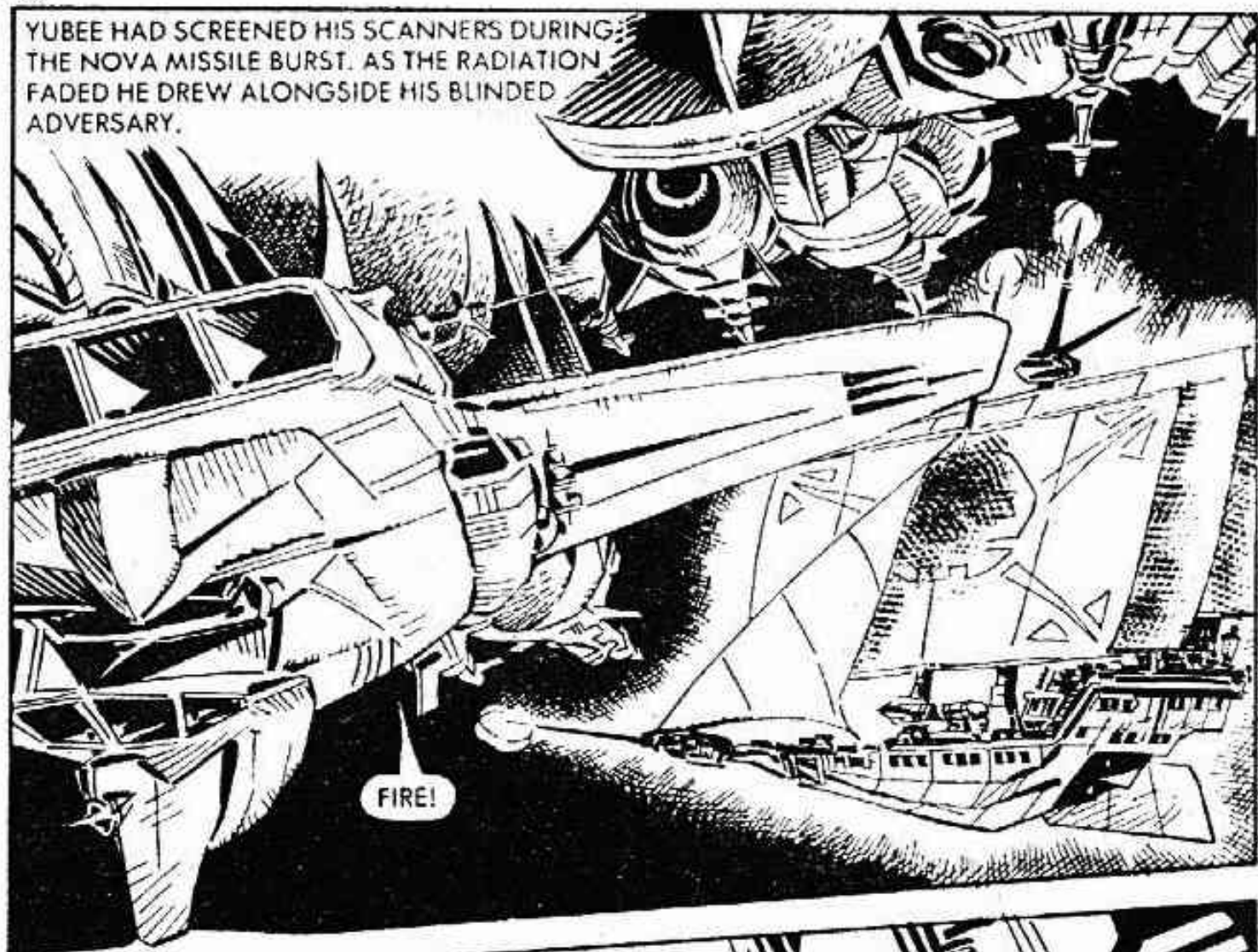


MY FORCE FIELD IS PROOF
AGAINST PUNY FIREWORKS!

THE HIGH RADIATION LEVELS HAVE
TRIPPED OUT THE SAFETY FUSES ON
OUR ELECTRONIC SCANS, WE ARE
FLYING BLIND UNTIL THEY CAN BE
RE-SET!



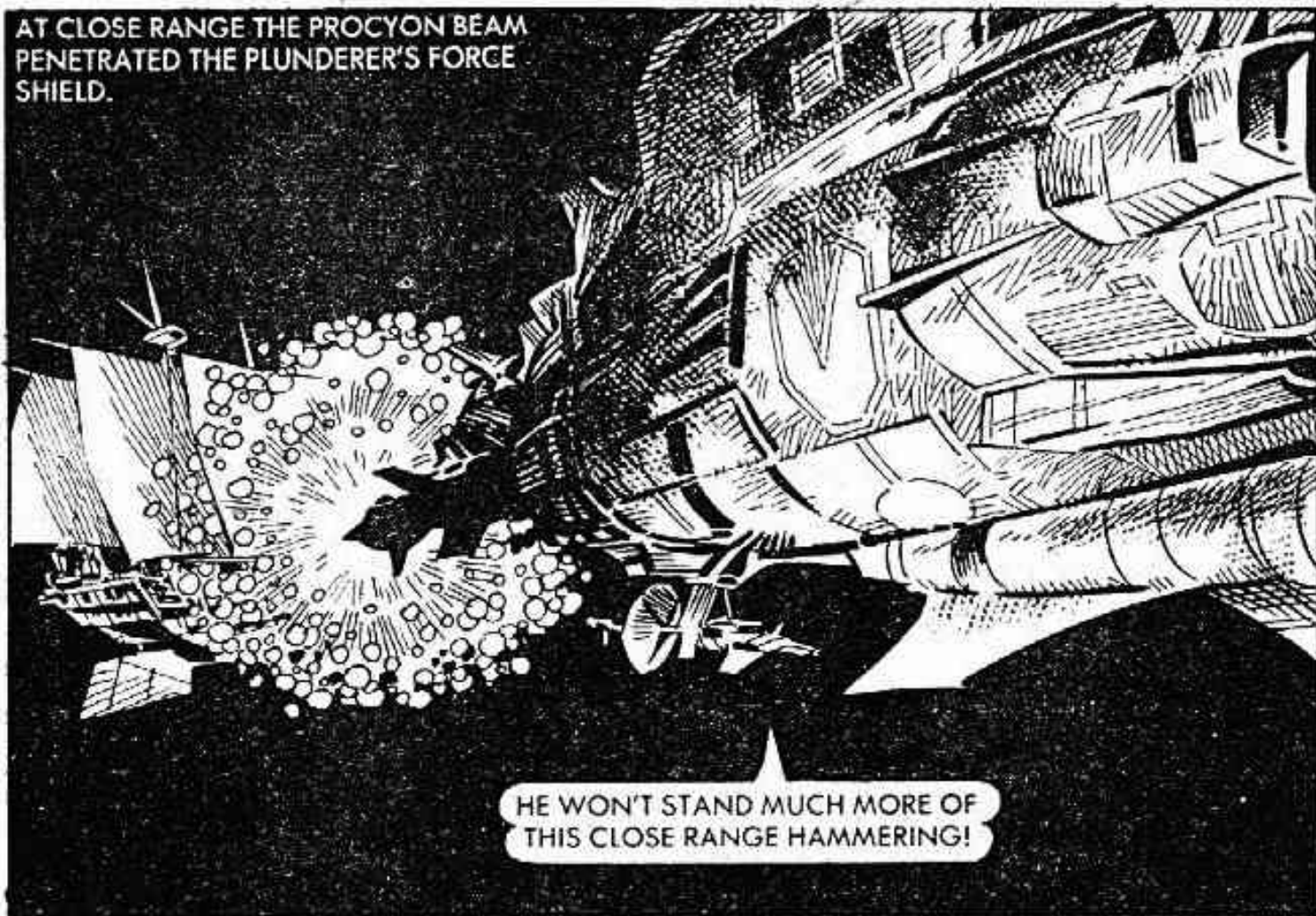
YUBEE HAD SCREENED HIS SCANNERS DURING THE NOVA MISSILE BURST. AS THE RADIATION FADED HE DREW ALONGSIDE HIS BLINDED ADVERSARY.



I'LL GIVE THE PLUNDERER A DOSE OF HIS OWN PROCYON BEAM, THANKS TO THE SPARE PROJECTOR WE DISCOVERED AT HIS ASTEROID BASE.



AT CLOSE RANGE THE PROCYON BEAM
PENETRATED THE PLUNDERER'S FORCE
SHIELD.



HE WON'T STAND MUCH MORE OF
THIS CLOSE RANGE HAMMERING!

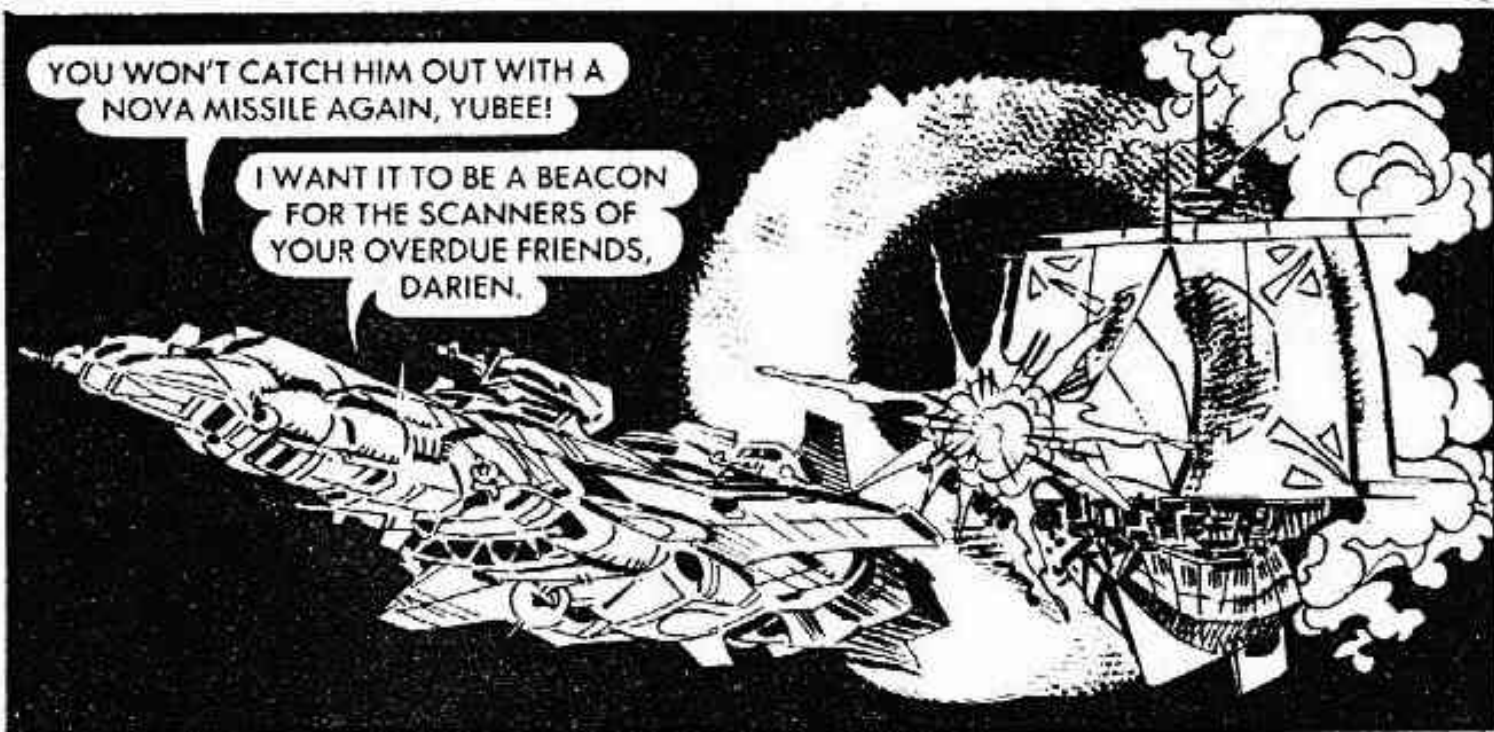


SORRY, DARIEN, I'VE GOT TO
DISENGAGE: HIS SCANNERS ARE
COMING BACK ON-LINE.



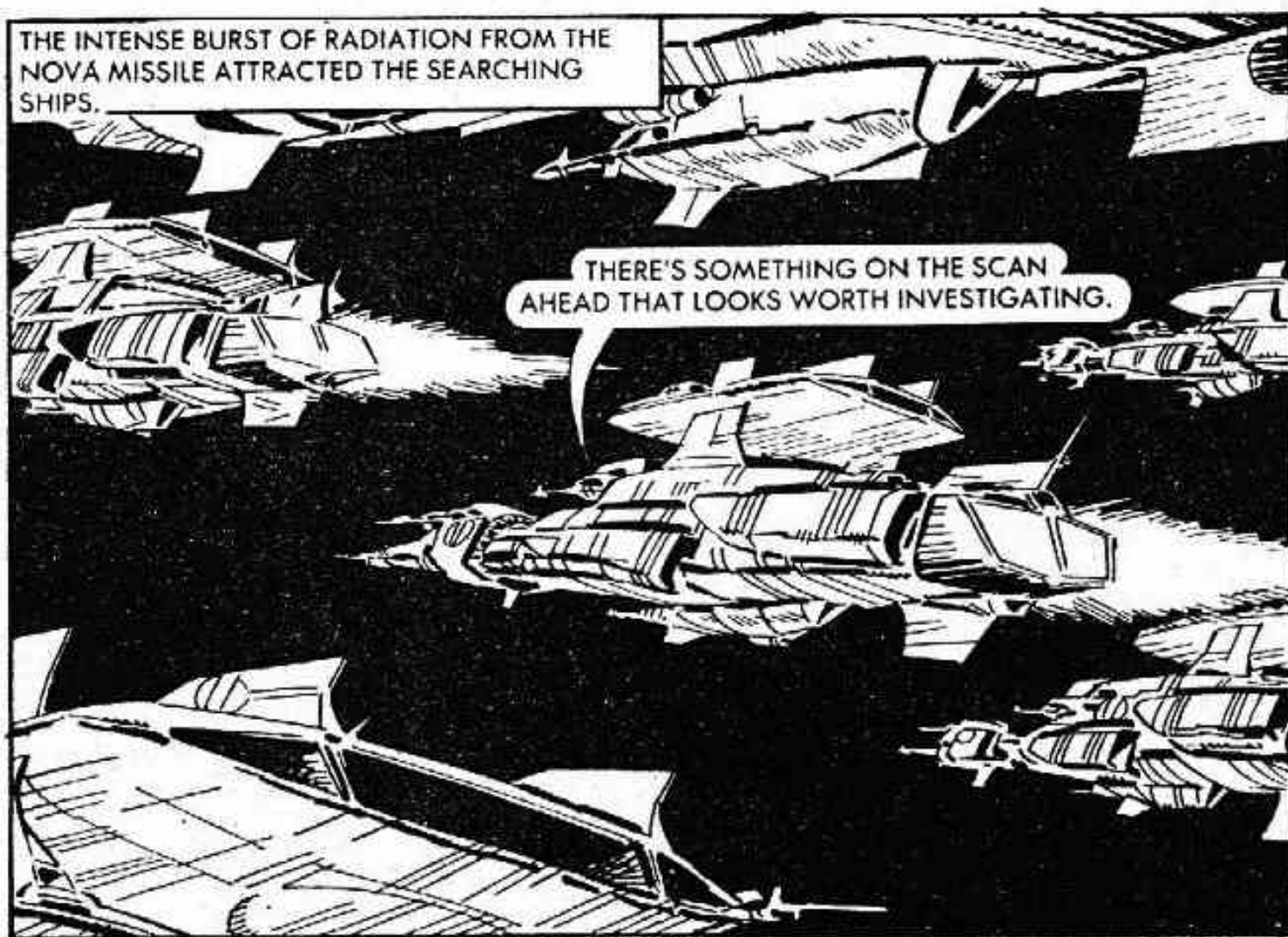
YOU WON'T CATCH HIM OUT WITH A NOVA MISSILE AGAIN, YUBEE!

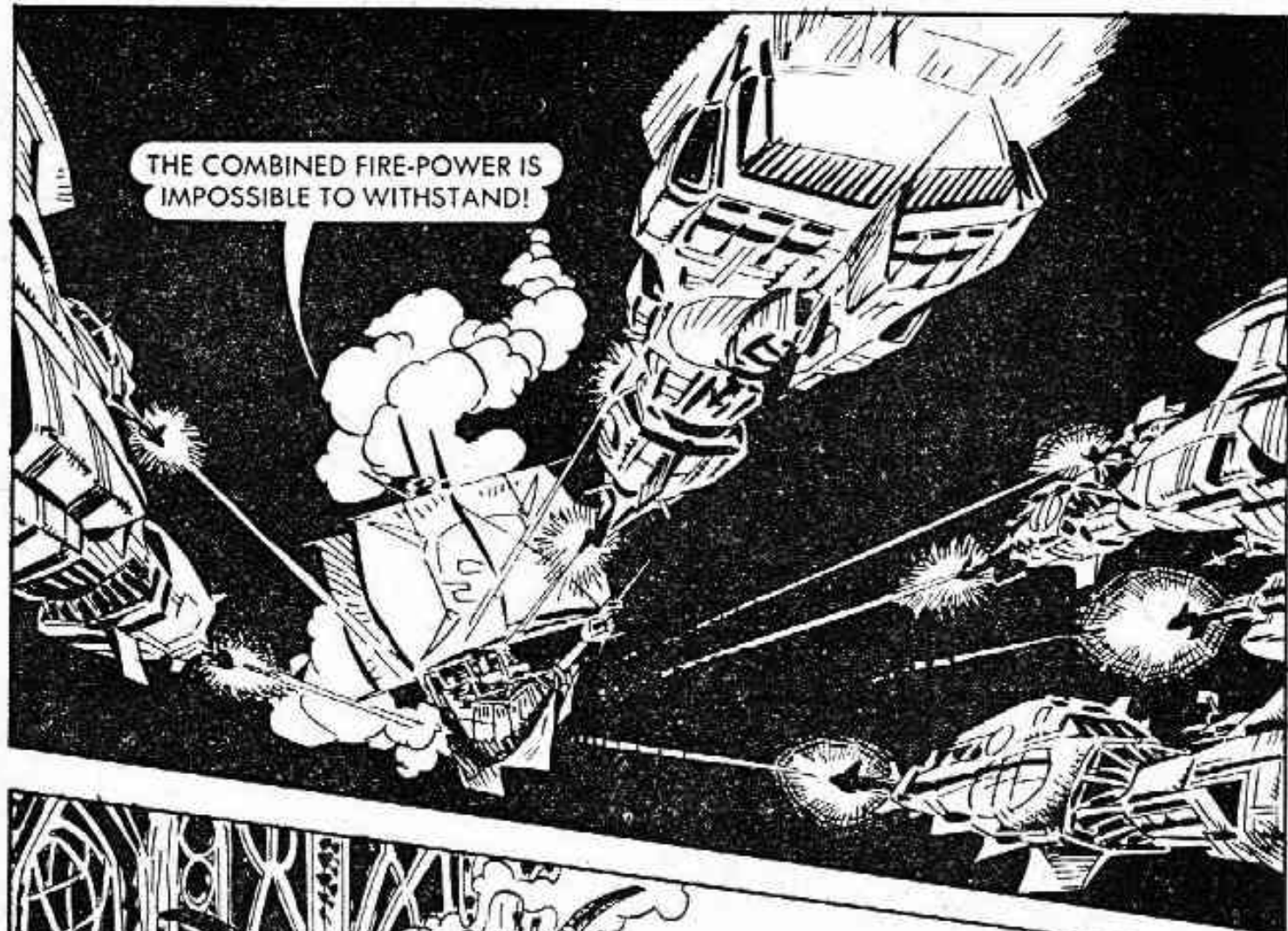
I WANT IT TO BE A BEACON FOR THE SCANNERS OF YOUR OVERDUE FRIENDS, DARIEN.



THE INTENSE BURST OF RADIATION FROM THE NOVA MISSILE ATTRACTED THE SEARCHING SHIPS.

THERE'S SOMETHING ON THE SCAN AHEAD THAT LOOKS WORTH INVESTIGATING.





HE'S DECIMATED OUR FORCE SHIELD DEFENCES. THE NEXT BEAM WILL TURN US INTO DEBRIS!

... BUT THE KNOCK-OUT BURST NEVER REACHED YUBEE AND DARIEN, AS THE PLUNDERER HIMSELF FELL TO THE PULVERISING FORCES.

THE USURPER OF PAVO AND THE RIGORIAN CONVOY PLUNDERER, WAS NO MORE.

THE ENEMY OF PAVO'S FREEDOM WAS A CLOUD OF SPACE DUST — HIS MENACE ENDED.

WHAT DRIVES MEN TO COMMIT SUCH BARBARIC ACTS IN THEIR QUEST FOR POWER? EVEN I, IN TRYING TO REGAIN POWER, HAVE KILLED MANY MEN.

I HAVE ASKED THAT QUESTION AS WELL, AND I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER. BUT I DO KNOW THAT WE, AND OTHERS, MUST NEVER BOW TO INHUMANE AND UNFEELING RULERS.



Printed and Published in Great Britain by D.C. THOMSON & CO., LTD.,
185 Fleet Street, London, EC4A 2HS. © D.C. THOMSON & CO., LTD., 1983.

DON'T FORGET TO READ THIS MONTH'S

OTHER

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 101

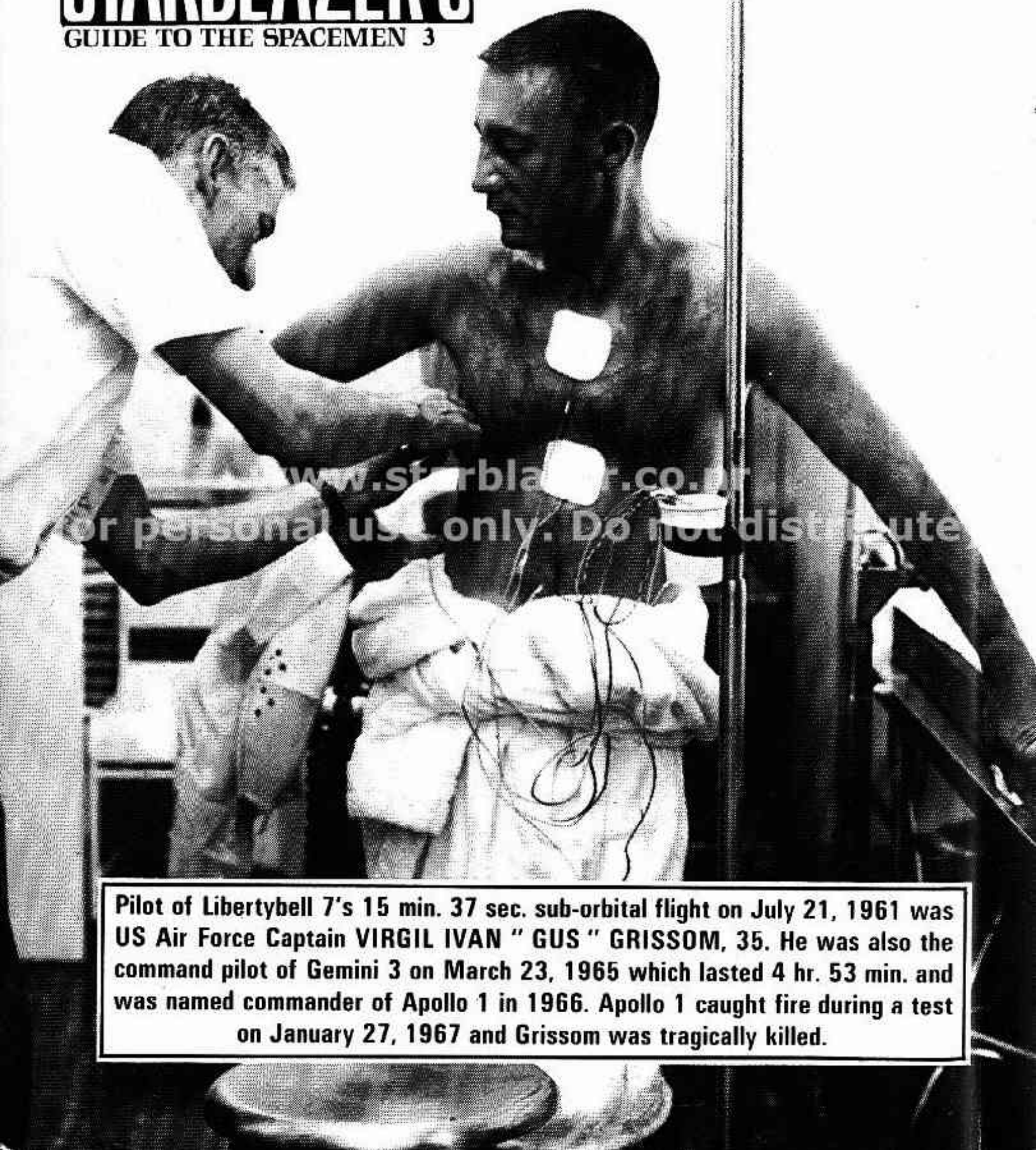


FORGOTTEN WORLD

ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSAGENT'S

STARBLAZER'S

GUIDE TO THE SPACEMEN 3



Pilot of Libertybell 7's 15 min. 37 sec. sub-orbital flight on July 21, 1961 was US Air Force Captain VIRGIL IVAN " GUS " GRISSOM, 35. He was also the command pilot of Gemini 3 on March 23, 1965 which lasted 4 hr. 53 min. and was named commander of Apollo 1 in 1966. Apollo 1 caught fire during a test on January 27, 1967 and Grissom was tragically killed.